

Sharon presents \$13.5b plan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon presented a multi-billion dollar plan Sunday to house a tidal wave of immigrants that opponents said would bankrupt the country. Sharon said unless his plans were accepted many Israeli, displaced by rent-subsidised immigrants and unable to afford or even find housing, faced a tough winter. "Winter is coming. Hundreds are living outside and the number will rise by the end of the year," he told reporters after presenting his plans to the cabinet. Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said the government could not afford the \$13.5 billion five-year plan designed to cope with a forecast arrival of a million migrants by 1995 — increasing by a fifth the population of the Jewish state. "There is a limit to how much we can stretch the budget... we're a poor country, we can't afford the load on the government budget," Mordechai told a news conference after a five-hour cabinet session centred on the plan. The plan turned the government into a "massive landlord while disregarding... employment, education and health for the newcomers," he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Algeria sets polls for next year

ALGIERS (AP) — The Algerian parliament, monopolised by the ruling party, will be dissolved and new elections held in the first four months of 1991, President Chadli Benjedid announced Sunday. The decision comes in the wake of a decisive victory in June 12 local elections by a fundamentalist group, which has been calling for an immediate dissolution of the parliament. The announcement came at a cabinet meeting as Benjedid installed the country's first defence minister, Major-General Khaleel Nezzar, the official news agency reported. The Islamic Salvation Front has called for an immediate dissolution of the National People's Assembly, along with other opposition groups. Parliamentary elections were normally scheduled for the first trimester of 1992. The ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) now holds all parliamentary seats. The decision was made "after lengthy reflection," the news agency APS quoted Benjedid as saying, "and my conviction that the political parties will respect the rules of democracy." The municipal elections in June were the first multi-party balloting since Algeria gained independence from France in 1962. The FLN had controlled political life since then.

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Qasem due in Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem leaves for Cairo Monday to take part in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which opens in Cairo Tuesday. In a statement to Al Ra'i Qasem said that the meeting will discuss among other issues Soviet Jewish immigration.

French prisoners stage protest

LILLE, France (R) — French prisoners protested at the pardon and release of Lebanese guerrilla Anis Naccache, climbing onto the roof of one jail Sunday and temporarily refusing to return to cells in others. The release of Naccache and four accomplices, jailed for life after an abortive assassination attempt on former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in 1980, has angered prisoners in overcrowded jails across France. All five flew to Iran Friday after being pardoned by President Francois Mitterrand. Prisoners in climbed onto the roof of one Lille jail and others temporarily refused to return to cells.

Libya denies Chadian claims

NICOSIA (R) — Libya has denied Chadian charges that it had used a peace accord as a pretext to build up its military forces, the Libyan news agency JANA reported Sunday. It said the Foreign Ministry summoned Chad's ambassador on Saturday to clarify comments by Chadian Foreign Minister Achiche Ben Omar in Paris Friday that Libya had bought time to rearm by signing the August 1989 ceasefire in Algiers. The agency reiterated Libya's support for a peaceful solution to rival territorial claims over the Aouzou Strip, a vast desert area on Chad's northern border with Libya.

Iraqi oil minister in Libya with message

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi held talks Sunday with visiting Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, the Libyan news agency JANA said. JANA said Chalabi arrived in Libya Saturday night bearing a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The agency gave no details about his mission.

Sheikh Zayed visits Cairo Tuesday

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan will visit Egypt Tuesday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak, the Emirates news agency (WAM) reported Sunday.

Najibullah in Moscow

ISLAMABAD (R) — Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah left for the Soviet Union Sunday for "a short trip and medical treatment," the official Kabul Radio reported. The trip, not announced previously, was at the invitation of Soviet authorities, it added.

U.N. mission arrives in Morocco

RABAT (R) — A U.N. team flew to Morocco Sunday to work out the cost of a proposed self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara where Polisario guerrillas have been fighting for independence since 1976. Issa Di-allo, special adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, told reporters at Casablanca airport that the 34-member mission would spend two weeks in the area.

Thousands demand Ershad resignation

DHAKA (AP) — Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in the capital Sunday, demanding President Hussain Mohammad Ershad resign and hold free national elections. The day-long rallies and processions were organised by four major political groups that have regularly called for Ershad's resignation.

King in Baghdad on mediation bid

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Sunday on a mission aimed at ending the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait and held a round of talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein immediately after arrival. The King was expected to fly on to Kuwait for similar talks with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King's mission was aimed at "containing the passing crisis between Arab brethren, thus safeguarding Arab solidarity and Arab order."

The news agency said the King sought to "consolidate Arab solidarity and collective Arab action," and noted that he had been in contact with various other Arab leaders on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

Shortly after the King's arrival here, a Saudi official announced that Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders were to meet in Jeddah for reconciliation talks (see story below).

The King, who is using a special Iraqi plane for his present mission, is accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal, Prince Hamzah and Prince Talal Ben Mohammed and Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

Officials said in Amman that Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who were involved in meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, joined the King in Baghdad later Sunday. Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, who accompanied the King on most trips abroad, is currently visiting Paris.

King Hussein's visit follows a flurry of Arab activity to end the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. "King Hussein left on a working visit to Iraq and Kuwait to try to narrow the gaps and settle recent disputes between our brethren in both Arab countries," Petra said.

Petra said King Hussein's tour comes as part of other honest Arab efforts to contain regional differences and support Arab solidarity and the common Arab march to protect Arab governments.

Last Monday, the Monarch visited Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria, where both leaders discussed ways to the Gulf dispute.

King Hussein's visit to Egypt came days after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of flooding the oil market by violating their Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production quotas, driving down oil prices.

King Hussein also telephoned the Iraqi president several times during the past two weeks. Jordan, along with Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, formed the Arab Cooperation Council in February 1989.

Jeddah talks begin Tuesday

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq and Kuwait will meet in Saudi Arabia Tuesday for crisis talks aimed at resolving their furious row over oil and territory.

Saudi Arabia announced Sunday night that the talks between Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Jazal Ibrahim, the vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, would take place in Jeddah.

"The Saudi government... looks forward with hope to a cordial spirit at the meeting... in the interest of both countries and peoples," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official source as saying.

Baghdad, which prompted the Gulf crisis when it accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of quota-busting and Kuwait of stealing Iraqi oil, said earlier the talks may not be held this week, and added

Kuwait might be to blame. Arab diplomats have been heavily engaged in trying to get Kuwait and Iraq to the conference table following Baghdad's deployment of thousands of troops and tanks along its border with Kuwait last week.

Iraq said Friday that the talks in Jeddah would be procedural and substantive, negotiations should take place in Baghdad later.

Diplomats in the Gulf said that Iraq emerged strengthened from an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Geneva last week that forced other Gulf states to accept oil production discipline as demanded by Baghdad.

Iraq said Sunday the talks with Kuwait, due to have started Saturday or Sunday in the Saudi port of Jeddah, may not be held this week, and added Kuwait might be to blame for the delay.

It also demanded that Kuwait accept Iraq's "legitimate rights" outlined in a memorandum to the Arab League before the talks started.

Diplomats in the Gulf said the tough Iraqi conditions were unacceptable to Kuwait. They would have meant that Kuwait accepted Iraqi charges that it had stolen Iraqi oil, that it was giving up its claim to disputed border territory and was responsible for billions of dollars of Iraqi losses due to falling oil prices.

Kuwait said, however, it still hoped that talks with Iraq would go ahead and would lead to a final settlement of all differences between the two countries.

A government spokesman, quoted by the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA), confirmed for the first time that Crown Prince

He said the meeting was held recently in London between the PLO and the Likud official, but refused to name them or give further details about how or why it was arranged.

The Likud official told the PLO side that the Shamir government had fundamentally shifted its views on the election plan and now favoured talks with Arab countries to solve the Arab-Israeli problem, Abu Sharif said.

"Shamir's new views have blown up his previous plan and he is now in favour of negotiating the issue with an Arab delegation in the context of an international conference," Abu Sharif quoted the Likud official as saying.

It was the first time a Palestinian official reported a meeting with a senior Likud member. Israelis are banned by law from meeting PLO officials.

Former denied there had been any contact, calling the PLO statement the "wishful thinking of Mr. Abu Sharif."

Abu Sharif said he believed that Shamir's new views have been formed in a letter sent after Shamir formed his new government last month.

The letter has been in the centre of diplomatic contacts between the United States and Israel, but its contents have never been revealed.

Arzfat warned Saturday that Israel was trying to convene a Middle East peace conference excluding the PLO. He said Shamir proposed to Bush a

Jordan, Egypt urge quick end to Gulf row

Badran, Sedki say no knowledge of U.S.-Israeli efforts

By Marwan M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Egypt and Jordan both hoped that one-week-old dispute between Iraq and Kuwait would be solved as quickly as possible so that the issue is not internationalised, the Jordanian and Egyptian prime ministers told a news conference Sunday at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee.

After signing a \$250 million trade protocol, the two prime ministers also told reporters that they were unaware of any U.S.-Israeli effort to try to arrange a Middle East peace conference without the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The dispute between Iraq and Kuwait is an Arab problem and all of us are anxious that the situation be kept regional and not be internationalised," Prime Minister Mudar Badran told reporters.

The prime minister said that His Majesty King Hussein was in close contact with the leaders of Iraq and Kuwait.

Asked about PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's statement that the U.S. and Israel were plotting to leave the PLO out of peace talks, the two prime ministers said that they had no information on the issue.

"We have not received any information from the parties concerned," Badran said.

Badran and Sedki also announced the signing of a bilateral trade agreement worth \$250 million annually.

They said reporters that among issues of bilateral concern that were discussed by the joint committee were economic cooperation, communication, planning, agriculture, transport, energy, tourism, in-

formation, health, culture and manpower issues.

Badran stressed the importance of close cooperation between the two countries, founding members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

"Cooperation between Arab brothers at a time of enormous political and economic challenges is of utmost importance," Badran told reporters.

Badran reiterated statements made by King Hussein in Alexandria about the on-going dispute between Iraq and Kuwait over the price of crude oil.

"The dispute is an Arab problem and all of us are anxious that the situation be kept regional and not internationalised," Badran said.

The prime minister said that King Hussein was in contact with the leaders of Iraq and Kuwait and said that the dispute would be addressed and resolved as a result of Arab efforts.

Sedki stressed the importance of solving the Arab-Israeli conflict by

"peaceful means."

It is of utmost importance that the Arab-Israeli conflict be resolved peacefully," Sedki said. "The disruption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue was a setback for the peace process but all sides must do their best to enable the resumption of the dialogue," he added.

Sedki stressed that "other parties should join the peace process, but did not identify either the parties nor which precise peace process he was referring to."

The Egyptian prime minister confirmed that meetings between Egyptian, Sudanese, Libyan and Syrian officials had taken place after Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad paid separate visits to Cairo earlier this month.

A major result of the meetings, he said, had been agreements to plant wheat and grains in Egypt and Sudan to strengthen the food supplies available in the two countries.

The Egyptian delegation headed by Sedki left Amman later Sunday.

PLO says Shamir dropped election proposal

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ezzat Abdul Meguid said Sunday that Cairo was keen on containing the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait and was making every possible effort to arrange a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

In a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Abdul Meguid said he would try to arrange such a meeting in Cairo, where both ministers will be taking part in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz are expected to be among those attending the OIC meeting.

Egypt seeks Sabah-Aziz meeting

By Caroline Faraj
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Is a reply to a question in an apparent strain in relations between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Abdul Meguid said. "The question would better be addressed to the PLO because Egypt has not created this crisis."

He said Egypt is willing to overcome all such crises through consultation and co-operation and noted that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat recently met in Taiz, Yemen, and reviewed the situation.

"We still have a long way to go together," Abdul Meguid said.

His recent visit to the United States, the minister said, followed contacts between U.S. President George Bush and Mubarak. He said his mission was to explain the situation in the region and the latest developments after Washington suspended the Palestinian-American dialogue.

"Following my return, I made several contacts with the PLO leadership and informed them of Egypt's keen interest to maintain coordination with the PLO," the minister said.

He added that his country was committed to following the path of peace, "despite all difficulties because peace — just and honourable peace — is essential for the world at large."

He said the Palestine question "is the central question of all Arabs" and voiced pride in the Palestinian uprising, "which has changed the equilibrium in the region and created a new situation."

Asked if his country intends to resume diplomatic relations with Iran, the minister said he would discuss this issue with the Iranian delegation taking part in the OIC foreign ministers' meeting which opens in Cairo Tuesday.

Cairo, Amman outline major moves to boost cooperation

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee concluded a two-day meeting here Sunday and prime ministers Mudar Badran and Atef Sedki signed the minutes of the committee's deliberations designed to promote cooperation in many fields.

At a press conference held after the meetings, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki said they had also signed a trade agreement covering a total volume of \$250 million for this year.

According to an official statement issued at the end of the sessions:

The two sides expressed determination to implement projects provided for under the joint holding company. They will each pay the remaining \$2.5 million shares in the company's total capital of \$50 million to help carry out animal feed, lean meat and agricultural seed projects. The lean meat and fodder project will cost 32 million Egyptian pounds and will be set up in Egypt. The committee, recommended that a feasibility study be conducted on the seed project, expected to be set up in Jordan.

The two sides will also com-

plete a feasibility study on a fishery project to be set up in Egypt and will temporarily shelve a joint tourism project to open the way for the private sectors in the two countries to carry it out.

The two sides decided to exempt from customs duty certain products and will take measures to ensure the implementation of a trade protocol signed by the two countries.

The committee called for a meeting by specialists from both sides employed by the national airlines to try to settle payments due for payment by Egypt Air to Jordan between April 1988 and October 1988.

The two sides reviewed a project for producing phosphoric acid at the Dead Sea. The project will be completed by October this year.

They decided to conduct a feasibility study on a potassium project to be set up in Egypt. Jordanian fertilizer and industrial companies will be encouraged to purchase spare parts from Egypt and both countries will pave the way for alternate meetings by technical and industrial committee in Amman and Cairo to plan out ways for achieving industrial integration.

The committee urged the concerned authorities in the two countries to exchange laws and regulations pertaining to industry for future coordination of laws and specifications and agreed to encourage vocational training corporations to exchange plans and programmes on training in various trades.

The committee stressed the importance of national and regional cooperation and particularly referred to the areas of southern Jordan and southern Sinai which have similar characteristics. A Jordanian team will visit Egypt and benefit from national and regional and rural planning and the two sides will set up a joint team to work out details for coordination in planning matters.

The committee voiced satisfaction with cooperation in the exchange of information, visits by agricultural specialists and with organising training courses for personnel from either side.

It said the two sides were going ahead satisfactorily with the process of exchanging fruit trees and seeds, and carrying out projects emanating from the joint holding company.

The two sides will continue close cooperation in carrying out linking their national grids, and will entrust a joint committee with pursuing studies in oil and natural gas. They will also conduct training of personnel at laboratories in Egypt on extracting uranium from phosphate.

The two sides voiced satisfaction with the operations of the Arab Maritime Bridge company linking Sinai with Aqaba and agreed to provide facilities for increased transport operations by constructing a modern passenger station at Aqaba and a new quay at Nweibeh in Sinai. The two sides will exempt all Jordanian and Egyptian travellers along the Aqaba Nweibeh route from travel fees in

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"He wanted a bus for 60 people to go to Heathrow (Airport) and an airplane available to go to Beirut," Antonello added.

Armed police surrounded the building, near the Ritz, and opened negotiations with the gunman. They said he had made demands but would not say what they were.

Broderick said the gunman had identified himself as "Rashid".

Gunman gives up after London hostage drama

LONDON (R) — A gunman who burst into a London nightclub and held dozens of people hostage surrendered to armed police Sunday after many of his captives escaped saying he was drunk on whisky and high on cocaine.

The man, who told one witness he was Lebanese and demanded a plane to Beirut, left Tokyo Joe's Club in the exclusive Mayfair district escorted by police. He was limping, with a red blanket over his head.

A police spokesman said no one had been hurt in the 10-hour siege, although some of the hostages were shocked and dazed.

At one time the man held

more than 100 people at gunpoint. Staff and customers said he had demanded a plane to fly himself and some of his hostages to Beirut.

"He is drunk and coked to the sky. He was drinking from a bottle of black label and fell over, breaking it and cutting his leg open. It is bleeding badly," one customer, 20-year-old Tina Broderick, said after escaping.

"He asked me to get a packet from his jacket. He took two grammes of cocaine there and then," she added. "He just kept falling over and I took my chance and ran away."

Police said that during the negotiations they sent in smoked salmon sandwiches

from the exclusive Ritz Hotel.

They said the man freed many hostages in negotiations while others managed to escape. Eventually the number of captives fell to about half a dozen.

The man burst into the club at about 2 a.m., firing a shotgun and shouting that he had a bomb.

Broderick said the gunman had used four girls as a shield when he went into the main room. "He had four girls lined up in front of him. He was crouching behind them for protection."

A police spokesman said later a number of Arab VIPs had been in the club but all were

safe. He did not say who they were.

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Iraq assails U.S. for not denouncing Israeli threat

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq Sunday slammed the United States and other Western nations for maintaining silence over a statement by Israeli Science Minister Yuval Neeman that Israel could use chemical weapons as "everybody knows that Israel has all kinds of weapons of mass destruction."

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that Iraq was not surprised to hear that Israel possesses chemical weapons as "everybody knows that Israel has all kinds of weapons of mass destruction."

"But we are surprised that America and the West made a lot of fuss about Iraq's weapons potential and kept silent on the statement by the Israeli minister," the spokesman said.

He said the American and Western silence was "evidence of their double standard" and their policies of "making Israel the dominant power in the Middle East."

In Israel, Neeman backed away Saturday from his call for Iraq to respond in kind to Iraqi warnings that it would use chemical weapons to retaliate for any Israeli attack.

In the most far-reaching statement by an Israeli leader on the

subject, Neeman said Friday that Israel was ready to counter Iraqi threats.

"In my opinion, we have an excellent response, and that is to threaten (Saddam) Hussein with the same merchandise," said Neeman in an interview on Israel Radio.

"And if there is an enemy like this, it is possible to prepare a suitable response," said Neeman, who is also head of Israel's space programme. "I have doubt that also today we can respond to a threat like this."

Israel is widely believed to have chemical weapons, but officials have never admitted it. In Israel, a source in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office indicated Friday that Shamir was displeased with Neeman's declaration and meant to discuss the radio interview with him.

Neeman said Saturday that he had been misunderstood.

"I think the whole thing was taken out of context," the 65-year-old Neeman said on Israel Radio.

"What I said was that the answer should be in kind. In kind could be heavy bombardments by our excellent air force... I did say that it is no problem to produce chemical weapons but I did not

call on Israel to start producing them."

However, Neeman, who served both as deputy director of army intelligence and scientific director of Israel's atomic energy programme, answered a direct question of whether Israel possessed such arms with, "That question should be asked of the minister of defence."

In Washington, the State Department said in a terse statement Friday: "We've seen those reports and we will be taking up the subject with the government of Israel."

Studies published abroad have reported Israel has both chemical and nuclear weapons capabilities. The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said Israel could possess up to 100 nuclear warheads.

Arab countries have defended the development of chemical weapons as a cheap and technologically easy response to Israeli nuclear capabilities.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said this week the chances for war in the Middle East were at the highest level in years because of Iraq "threats" but officials made clear Israel did not see a threat unless Iraq acted together with other Arab states.

Lebanon battles unabated

KFAR HITTI, Lebanon (R) — Rival Shi'ites fought for control of a strategic strip of South Lebanon Sunday, ignoring red cross attempts to evacuate wounded from the battlefield.

Witnesses said battles between Syrian-backed Amal militiamen and Palestinian guerrillas against gunmen of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) centred around the village of Kfar Miki, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

At least 45 people were killed and 90 wounded in fighting near the village Saturday. There was no immediate word on casualties from Sunday's fighting in which artillery, rockets, and mortars were used.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Sunday renewed its plea to the warring sides to "consider its urgent appeal in favour of the victims of the conflict and to respond positively to its request of a humanitarian ceasefire."

A Renter correspondent said empty shell casings littered the winding roads leading to the battlezone where clouds of smoke hung low over Kfar Miki.

He said some Amal and Palestinian fighters, taking a breather from the fighting, looked haggard after 16 hours of battles Saturday. The heavily-armed fighters sat under oak trees reading newspapers and drinking coffee.

Israeli warplanes, following the daily pattern set on July 16 when the inter-Shi'ite fighting erupted, flew reconnaissance missions over the shell-shattered district.

Amal, helped by guerrillas of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), captured two strategic hills on the edge of Kfar Miki Saturday. The Renter correspondent said Amal and Palestinian flags fluttered on the hills.

The seizure of the hills has given Amal and the Palestinians control of the main supply route for Hizbollah in the Iqlim Al Tounah region, just north of Israel's self-declared South Lebanon "security zone."

About 600 Palestinians moved into the area last week to prevent Hizbollah from gaining territory and provided Amal with artillery cover.

PLO official Anwar Madi told reporters the PLO deployed in the area "to prevent Hizbollah from achieving its scheme to control a large part of South Lebanon."

Israel and its local militia ally, the South Lebanon Army, have shelled Amal, Hizbollah and Palestinian positions and reinforced positions overlooking Iqlim Al Tounah.

Amal and Hizbollah, vying for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites, have been fighting on-and-off.

U.N. plan to repatriate Afghan refugees gets off to slow start

LANDI KOTAL, Pakistan (AP) — The United Nations set up an Afghan refugee repatriation programme Saturday at the edge of the Khyber Pass, but no refugees appeared.

The United Nations was offering \$150 and 300 kilograms of wheat for refugees in exchange for their ration cards, which entitle them to a monthly stipend of food in the refugee camps.

About three million Afghans fled to Pakistan after 1979 when Soviet soldiers marched into Afghanistan to crush a growing insurgency and install their allies in Kabul.

An additional two million refugees are living in Iran. It wasn't

known whether the repatriation scheme had begun in Iran.

A U.S.-backed provisional rebel government has condemned the U.N.-sponsored plan, fearing a mass exodus from the hundreds of refugee camps in Pakistan would erode their powerbase.

Jan Alam, an Afghan refugee, said Islamic clerics warned their congregations Friday not to return to Afghanistan.

"The mullahs (clerics) warned that if we go back we would be kafirs (non-Muslim)," Alam said. He heard the warnings during Friday prayers at the sprawling Nasir Baugh refugee camp, outside Pakistan's border city of Peshawar.

While it is widely believed that 3.2 million war refugees are living in Pakistan, only 2.8 million are registered with the United Nations. The newly implemented programme applies only to the registered refugees.

A U.N. official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said thousands of refugees have already returned, particularly to Afghanistan's arid southern province of Kandahar. But many of them were unregistered.

A Pakistan border guard, who refused to be identified, said five Afghan families did return to Afghanistan Saturday but none were registered.

OIC moves under way to counter U.S. effort to kill U.N. resolution

By Maurice Guindi
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Syria wants Muslim countries to unite in resisting U.S.-led efforts to get the United Nations to revoke a resolution equating Zionism with racism, according to a senior Egyptian official.

The disclosure came as experts from the 45 members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) met and adopted an agenda for the 19th annual foreign ministers meeting opening in Cairo next Tuesday.

The 85-item agenda included several subjects which were explicitly or implicitly anti-Israel or anti-American.

It also included the burning issue of Kashmir which threatens a new military confrontation between Pakistan and India.

Egypt's Amr Moussa, who chaired the experts session, told reporters about the Syrian proposal, which was included in the agenda along with a Jordan-requested item on the same subject.

The U.N. resolution, adopted

by the General Assembly in 1975, was strongly opposed by Israel, the United States and other Western countries, Arab, Communist and many Third World countries approved it. It could not be blocked because the big powers have no veto in the assembly.

With strong congressional support, Washington has been trying to marshal enough backing among U.N. members to scrap the resolution.

The Syrian move is virtually certain to win overwhelming support at the Cairo meeting.

According to acopy of the agenda obtained by the AP, Syria asked that the conference discuss "persistent efforts and various forms of pressure by the United States on world countries and the United Nations" to get the General Assembly to rescind the 1975 resolution at the coming fall session.

The Jordanian-proposed item simply said: "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination."

Agenda items included the U.S. "aggression" against Libya

and the "strategic alliance" between the United States and Israel. It was not clear whether the word "aggression" referred to a general American policy trend or specifically the U.S. punitive air attacks on Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986 after a bombing in West Germany blamed on Libya.

Items included the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into the Jewish state and their settlement in the occupied territories, the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza and "contesting Israel's U.N. credentials."

Previous challenges to Israel's credentials have failed and some OIC members are known to oppose this. They include Egypt, which signed a treaty with Israel in 1979.

The agenda also included customary fixtures like the Palestinian problem, the status of Jerusalem, Lebanon's civil war, the Iraq-Iran dispute, the situation in Afghanistan and Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries, including the Philippines.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will open the ministerial parley with a keynote speech that Cairo government sources said will emphasise the need for conciliation and peaceful dialogue to settle inter-Muslim differences.

But the forces said Egypt was determined to keep out of the conference floor the latest crisis in the Muslim World, that between Iraq and Kuwait over oil production and border demarcation.

Direct Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks organised by Mubarak and Saudi Arabian King Fahd are due to open this week in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The Egyptian sources said that Cairo wants to keep the conflict "strictly within the Arab circle."

The agenda adopted Saturday listed an Iranian entry reading: "The new Zionist conspiracy to destroy the Islamic holy shrines."

It was not clear from the wording whether it referred only to Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest shrine, or covered also the holy places in Saudi Arabia. The latter are the grand mosque in Mecca, which houses the Kaaba, and the Prophet Mohammad's tomb in Medina.

Price of keeping peace is too high in Cyprus

By Jacqueline Rediff
Reuters

NICOSIA — Keeping the peace between the Turkish and Greek-Cypriot communities on this divided island is costing more than \$90 million a year and the handful of countries that fork out most of the money are crying out for help.

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has expressed concern over "the chronic and ever deepening financial crisis" facing the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus.

His appeals to U.N. member states for more money have so far fallen on deaf ears.

When the Security Council first recommended stationing a peacekeeping force on the island in 1964 to keep the warring communities apart, it was for a period of three months with costs to be met by governments providing the contingents, the Cypriot government and voluntary contributions from other states.

The financing structure has since remained unchanged.

More peacekeeping troops arrived on the island following the Turkish invasion in 1974 which was prompted by a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The U.N. "Blue Berets" have been responsible for patrolling the green line dividing

the island since the Turkish invasion.

The buffer zone separates some 31,000 Turkish and 5,000 Greek-Cypriot troops in the northern third of the island from about 2,000 Greek and 16,000 Greek-Cypriot troops in the south.

U.N. troops also have to grapple with Greek-Cypriot demonstrators trying to cross into the north to protest against the Turkish occupation.

Britain, Canada, Austria and Denmark at present provide some 2,000 troops and pay about two thirds of all costs. Sweden, Australia, Ireland and Finland have smaller police contingents.

Cyprus provides premises for the headquarters and camps.

The other third of the cost of keeping the contingents is supposed to be met from a special U.N. contributions account. This has led to problems.

Since 1964, only 72 of the 160 U.N. member nations have contributed to the fund. The Soviet Union has given nothing and France made its first contribution last year.

In 1989, 22 countries, excluding those which provide troops, contributed a total of nearly \$15 million — about half the annual requirement.

The special fund has an accumulated deficit of nearly \$180 million and reimburse-

ment claims from the troop-contributing countries are 10 years in arrears.

These countries are now demanding a system of assessed contributions by all U.N. member states. In joint letters sent to the Security Council in May they protested about the "excessive and wholly unfair financial burden."

Last month Denmark went one step further, warning it was considering withdrawing its troops as Sweden did in 1987.

"We are prepared for the worst," said the U.N. peacekeeping commander, Major General Clive Milner.

"As professional soldiers, we'll get on with doing the job to the best of our ability, but I would have great difficulty making do if the Danes were to pull out."

The Cypriot government, which is currently contributing nearly \$800,000 a year to the special fund, hopes the United Nations will find a replacement if the Danes leave.

"We consider that the U.N. force has carried out its job of peacekeeping in a very creditable manner and that under the present circumstances, its effective presence is still necessary."

"We have always held the view that peacekeeping and peacekeeping go step in step," said Andreas Jacovides, director general of the Foreign Ministry.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Momoh: 'Arabs don't keep promises'

ABU DHABI (R) — Sierra Leone's President Joseph Momoh was quoted Sunday as saying Arab countries do not keep their promises on aid. "Frankly we are disappointed with our Arab brothers," the Sharjah-based Al Khaleej newspaper reported Momoh as saying. "When you go to them, they welcome you and make promises to give you aid. When you leave them it is the end of the story. We Africans have suspicions towards Arabs. We believe they do not take our ties seriously and are not too warm towards us." Al Khaleej said Momoh made his remarks last week during a brief stopover at Sharjah airport on his way to China. It quoted him as saying he was going all the way to China because he was confident the Chinese would help him. Momoh said his country appreciated what he called the limited U.S. aid of \$50 million in annual credits. "As you see, fifty million is nothing compared with the enormous Arab resources. But we have tried and found it difficult to get any aid from Arabs."

Bomb wounds anti-Abu Nidal dissidents

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — A bomb ripped through the offices of an anti-Abu Nidal dissident group in South Lebanon Sunday, seriously wounding a top official, security sources said. They said the blast caused extensive damage to the group's headquarters at the Rashideh refugee camp in the port of Tyre, 76 kilometres south of Beirut. The breakaway faction split from Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) earlier this year and called itself the Fateh Revolutionary Council — Emergency Command. The leader, known only as Sufyan, and three other members were seriously wounded and rushed to a hospital in Tyre, the sources said. Sufyan's supporters, backed by guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, drove Abu Nidal's followers from Rashideh earlier this year after fierce fighting.

Somali rebels agree to release trawler

NAIROBI (R) — Somali rebels have agreed to release a Soviet trawler they seized earlier this month, Addis Ababa Radio reported. It quoted the Ethiopian Ministry of Internal Affairs as saying the agreement was reached after discussions between government representatives and representatives of the Somali National Movement (SNM). The radio, monitored in Nairobi, said Saturday the trawler would be released soon but did not say when. The Ethiopian ministry said 27 Soviet citizens and three Somali nationals were on board the trawler when it was captured, and 16 of the Soviet nationals had been taken hostage by the SNM. Western diplomats said the Soviet Union had asked Ethiopia to press the Somali rebels to free the trawler, captured on July 18 by an SNM gunboat. When the hostages were taken off, the trawler, with the remainder of its crew, was anchored at a small island off the north coast of Somalia. The trawler was fishing under licence from the Somali government when it was attacked. The SNM is one of several rebel groups fighting to overthrow President Mohammad Siad Barre. It operates mainly in northern Somalia.

Turkish-Libyan meeting opens

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish and Libyan economic teams have begun a series of meetings in the coastal town of Sitsa on boosting cooperation, the Libyan news agency JANA reported Sunday. Talks began Saturday and committees were formed to deal with commercial, financial, social, industrial, labour and oil affairs, the agency, received in Cyprus, said.

Quake hits Iran's Khuzestan province

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter Scale shook a town in Iran's oil-rich province of Khuzestan Saturday, the second to hit the area in four days. The Iranian news agency IRNA said the tremor was centred 450 kilometres southwest of Tehran, near the town of Andimeshk. It did not report any casualties or damage. An earthquake registering 5.2 on the Richter Scale jolted Khuzestan's capital Ahwaz last Wednesday, causing panic among residents. IRNA said an area northwest of Tehran devastated by a strong earthquake last month was shaken by three aftershocks over the past 24 hours. The strongest shock, measuring 4.3 on the Richter Scale, destroyed several damaged buildings in the town of Rudbar, where the government announced it would hold a traditional 40th-day memorial Tuesday for the 40,000 victims of last month's quake.

Iran council vetoes death penalty bill

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's Guardian Council, which oversees parliament, vetoed a bill setting a mandatory death penalty for major economic crimes with subversive intent. The council threw out the bill because it did not define a "major" offence nor say how opposition to the government would be proved, Naneh Iran newspaper said. Parliament had passed the bill 10 days ago after radical Islamic fundamentalist officials called for the hanging of "economic terrorists." The bill covered embezzlement, overcharging, hoarding, bribery and smuggling of foreign currency, antiques and other valuables.

Militants rounded up in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Police detained at least 100 Muslim militants in a nationwide search for gunmen who shot and wounded two policemen Friday, a security source said Sunday. Many of those detained were released after police established they had no link to the shooting in the exclusive Cairo suburb of Maadi, the source said, and the rest were being held for further questioning. One of the two wounded policemen, still in critical condition, and able to communicate only in sign language, indicated that two pedestrians tried to steal his gun then beat and shot him. The second policeman said he did not see anything because his back was turned when he was shot. A security source Friday quoted witnesses as saying four or five assailants had fired from a speeding car. The policemen were shot in front of a villa owned by an Egyptian businessman and police were checking if he was the intended victim.

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15:30 Korna
15:40 Programme reviews
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary
16:10 Local programme
16:20 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Programme review
16:45 Local programmes
16:50 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 Documentary
18:10 News in French
18:15 Weekly Sport magazine
18:20 News in Hebrew
18:25 Varieties
18:30 Perfect Strangers
18:35 Murder She Wrote
18:40 News in English
18:45 The Eagles Game

PRAYER TIMES

04:15 Fajr
05:45 (Sunrise) Duha
12:45 Dhahar
16:25 'Asr
19:40 Maghreb
21:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich
Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 623566

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625431

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Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717361

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 717371

Assiout International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and windy with northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly moderate to fresh wind and westerly sea.

Min./max. temp. 19/29

Aqaba 24/38

Dead Sea 18/32

Jordan Valley 24/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 29, Aqaba 39, Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Sami Kicori 681573
Dr. Muthair Qureshi 778258
Dr. Avni Harwardani 77665
Dr. Joseph Imsh 770560
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asom pharmacy 637025
Nawroth pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

BERID:

Dr. Fawwaz Al Momani (—)
Dr. Al Shamsi pharmacy 982338

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Aqrabawi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Reception 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Reception Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 863422

Traffic Police 863990

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 661767

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 09991071

Reception 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radijo Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

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AMMAN:

Ministers to review creation of an ACC central bank, trade

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Sunday received a copy of the agenda of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministerial meetings which will open here on Sept. 8 at Prime Minister's level.

The copy was handed to Prime Minister Madad Badran by ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammar, who said later that the idea of an ACC bank agreed on by the governments of the central banks of Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt will be among the main topics to be discussed in Amman.

In a statement to Al Rai and the Jordan Times, Nammar said that an agreement reached by the governments of the central banks of the ACC countries on July 20 entails the creation of the bank in stages with the purpose of finding

a formula to settle payments for exchanged goods.

In the first stage, he said, the ACC will create a centre at the Central Bank of Jordan to deal with these payments and work will begin in two years on setting up the projected bank to take over the full operations of inter-ACC settlement of payment and grant credit facilities.

"Five years later the bank will be able to conduct investment projects in the four-member council nations," said Nammar.

The ACC central banks, he said, have approached the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to prepare a detailed study on this project to be presented to the ministerial council meeting in September.

According to the July 20 agreement, the projected bank will have a \$100 million capital in the initial stage and will be under the

direct control of the governors of the ACC central banks.

The coming ministerial council meeting will examine a \$120 million economic and trade deal which will be implemented by the ACC members in 1990 and 1991 and will give approval for exempting 34 various national products from customs fees upon entry into any of the four-member states.

The ACC prime ministers, he said, are also expected to endorse a proposal for holding week-long trade fairs in each of the ACC member countries to help promote the sale of national products.

Nammar said that the council meeting was also expected to review and endorse measures to be followed in agricultural, educational and planning fields and in matters related to organising the exchange of workers.

Syrians tour the world on foot

AMMAN (Petra) — Three Syrian around-the-world travellers arrived in Amman Sunday after crossing into Jordan from Syria on their way to other Arab and African nations.

The three: Mohammad Qasab, Thaez Fahed and Nidal

Fahmed said that they have come from the Suweida district in southern Syria and visited the Ma'raq and Zaqra governorates before arriving in Amman for a tour of archaeological sites and places of interest.

The travellers, who thanked

the Jordanian people for their hospitality, said that several families have given them accommodation.

"We will travel to Egypt and Sudan before going to a number of African nations and the United States," said the three adventurers who are making the trip on foot.

They said that on their way back to Syria they would tour several European countries and that they would study traditions and customs of various nations and write about them in a book.

While in the foreign countries, they said, they will distribute leaflets orienting foreigners on Arab states and will set up art exhibitions to help promote their cause.

The around-the-world trip is expected to take two years.

Libya's contribution comes timely to CAEU

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The timely receipt of Libya's share of Arab contribution to the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) has saved the council from immediate financial problems, and it is now looking forward to other member states to fulfil their obligations, according to CAEU officials.

"We have received the share of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah's contribution to the council," said CAEU Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim. "We are much thankful to the Libyan government for this gesture," he told the Jordan Times Sunday.

According to other officials, the Libyan payment was \$376,000, representing Tripoli's contribution for the year 1990.

According to Ghazi Hamzeh, deputy secretary-general of the Amman-based CAEU, "it came at a time when the council was wrestling with drastic financial crises." The Libyan payment was received Friday.

"We are hopeful that other members of the council will honour their financial obligations soon so that the institution can continue its operations," Hamzeh said.

The council, set up in 1964 with the aim of promoting economic integration among Arab states, now has 13 members after Kuwait withdrew earlier this year. It has been suffering from chronic economic problems and hit a major problem last year when it ran up a \$2 million debt as a result of non-receipt of contributions from member states.

Kuwait, which owes the council \$1.5 million as its share of contribution for the past four years, cancelled its membership after citing "ineffective management." Efforts aimed at convincing Kuwait to reverse the decision are continuing, Hamzeh told the Jordan Times. Kuwait left the council but the council's membership remained at the same number since it had readmitted Egypt in late 1988 after a suspension lasting almost a decade.

The council has announced that it had adopted reform proposals made by Kuwait, but there has been no indication of any renewed Kuwait interest in the council despite the fact that the council had slashed the Kuwaiti share of contribution to 23.73 per cent from 27.78 per cent, redefined its role to avoid duplication of work with similar Arab organisations, cutting salaries and staff size and trimming the budget.

Kuwaiti officials have said that they had repeatedly opposed the way the CAEU budget was handled and asked why Kuwait should be singled out for its failure to pay its dues to the council (of \$800,000 every year) while several other members have also failed to do so. Furthermore, they also argue that the work of the CAEU had clashed with that of the Arab Economic and Social Council, another Arab League agency.

The CAEU has reduced its budget to \$1.15 million in 1990 from \$1.6 million in 1989, and Hamzeh indicated that it was considering more cuts. He did not say which areas would be affected. The council announced the dismissal of several employees last year as a result of the financial straits.

In addition to Kuwait, which has the highest unpaid dues, other members which had not paid their contributions for 1989 include Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Mauritania, according to Hamzeh. Syria has not paid part of its share of contribution for 1990, he said.

Other members in the council are Jordan, Palestine, Yemen and Libya.

The problem of the CAEU, according to Arab diplomats, is typical of several other Arab League agencies which barely manage to scrap through their economic crises as a result of non-payment of dues by member states.

"When it was established, the council was expected to become one of the most effective and influential Arab League agencies," commented a Gulf Arab diplomat. "But the expectations soon waned as is reflected in its membership today," he said referring to the fact that only 12 of the 22 Arab League members remain members of the council. Joining the council is optional for the Arab states.

Hopes were raised in 1988 that problems facing Arab League institutions would be handled in a positive way when a special experts' committee met in Amman under a Jordanian initiative, but very little practical action has been seen of the work of the experts, the diplomat noted.

Regent advocates regional approach to water, population

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday that the issues of population and water resources are inter-related and both should be studied from a regional point of view.

"Water and population issues can be dealt with by specialists who, in turn, submit their ideas and proposals to decision-makers in the Arab countries," the Prince said at a meeting with visiting Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid.

Prince Hassan said that Arab countries could benefit from experiments of other countries and present their integrated plans to world organisations for support.

He said that in this way the Arabs would be drawing away from conflicts and act in harmony with the world order.

"It is rather better for the Arab countries to plan for themselves than await others to present them with ready-made formulas," the Prince said. "It is incumbent on the Arabs to coordinate and cooperate in these matters as soon as possible," the Prince continued.

Sedki voiced his support for the Prince's views and said that the population problem is causing a serious pressure on Arab countries' economies.

Sedki also said that the Jewish immigration poses a threat to all Arab states.

Qatanani urges help for Palestinians' steadfastness

AMMAN (Petra) — A supervisory council charged with looking after the affairs of Palestinian refugees has ended a seven-day meeting in Damascus by issuing a set of recommendations and resolutions designed to provide services to the Palestinian people.

Jordan's delegate to the meeting submitted a number of memoranda and research papers on Jewish settlements in Arab lands, human rights violations, the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and Israel's drive to change the character and status of Arab Jerusalem.

The delegate, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani who has just returned home, said that his address to the meeting covered regional developments and the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab lands resulting from Jewish immigration, Israel's intransigence to move towards peace and its continued inhuman practices against the Arab population.

Qatanani, who is director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of the Arab World to provide urgent assistance to the Palestinian families facing the Israeli atrocities so as to consolidate their steadfastness.

According to Qatanani, the

meeting, held between July 21 and 27 in Damascus, called on the Arab countries to provide help to the Arab people of Palestine, especially the workers, by initiating housing, agricultural and industrial projects in the Arab areas occupied by Israel.

"The conference urged Arab states to conduct a full study about Israel's taxation policy and its adverse effects on the socio-economic situation in the occupied Arab land to be submitted to the coming U.N. General Assembly session," Qatanani added.

The council urged Arab states directly involved with the refugees to present the Arab League with a full study of the water resources in Palestine and Israel's continued exploitation of these resources.

Qatanani said that the conference urged Arab states to follow up developments pertaining to the Soviet Jewish immigration and its demographic consequences in Palestine.

The meeting, which was attended by delegates from Jordan, Syria, Palestine and the Arab League, decided to hold its next session at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis in January 1991.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet appoints ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved the appointment of Awad Abu Obeid as Jordan's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Fakri Abu Taleb to Yemen and Akram Barakat to Switzerland. The Cabinet also approved the appointment of Mohammad Radwan Abdullah as mayor of Zahar Municipality in Irbid Governorate.

Jordan, Tunisia sign cooperation accord

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia Sunday signed an executive programme of cooperation in the fields of sports and youth. The programme calls for exchange of experts and publications, exchange of visits by athletes and youths from both countries, setting up training camps and participating in Arab and international championships held in both countries. Signing the programme for Jordan was Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghazalneh, Minister of Youth Hammoudh Ben Salameh signed for Tunisia.

Lebanon joins agrarian centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lebanese government decided to join the Amman-based Near East Regional Centre for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. In a memorandum presented to the centre's board of directors' chairman in Amman Saturday, through the Lebanese embassy, the government expressed its desire to get all the information concerning the centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Radeia and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.
- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zera displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

- ★ Exhibition entitled "The United Arab Emirates — Past and Present" displaying UAE national heritage and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iyad Al Masri at Yarmouk University.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Justin de Marseille" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

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Country for all and all for country

IT SEEMS that the commission entrusted to draft Jordan's national charter has hit one or two snags. Some of the commission members are asking the question of who's a Jordanian and who cannot or should not be. Yet others are questioning the wisdom behind political pluralism. Both are legitimate questions in the search for an ideal and most important "social contract" that would rule and regulate the relations among people living on this land. Ethnic, religious, political and ideological beliefs and affiliations, as recent history has shown, cannot be made useful and productive when suppressed, ignored or wrongly institutionalised. The basic principle of the sacredness of the individual's right to free thought, belief and affiliation without compromising other people's right or the national interest, must reign supreme.

The example of South Africa's apartheid, Eastern Europe's and the Soviet Union's erstwhile suppression of political pluralism, the Arab World's failure to address the issue of democracy, among others, are all lessons that must not escape the minds of the honourable persons who form the National Charter Commission. There is no danger in Jordanian groups forming their own political parties. In fact it is only healthy for society to be composed of different groups of people and individuals who differ on methods but agree on common ideals and higher interests of a nation.

We have been lucky in this country in the sense that the vast majority of our people understands and appreciates the fact that we all are destined to live together and everybody is prepared to shoulder his or her responsibility in building a promising future for our next generations. There is no escape from this. Whether we come from west of the river or east of it we are destined to share this land and to inhabit it. Our mutual interest is the future of our children and their well-being. That is why instead of sowing the seeds of division and disunity we must sow the seeds of unity and harmony. The problems of present-day politics had been the result of not only forced circumstances but also of absence of clarity and popular participation. We have the chance now to regain lost assets and vision. Nobody should be allowed to deprive the people of this country from realising and practising their full rights and from exercising their right to participate in shaping the future of the Kingdom and its people.

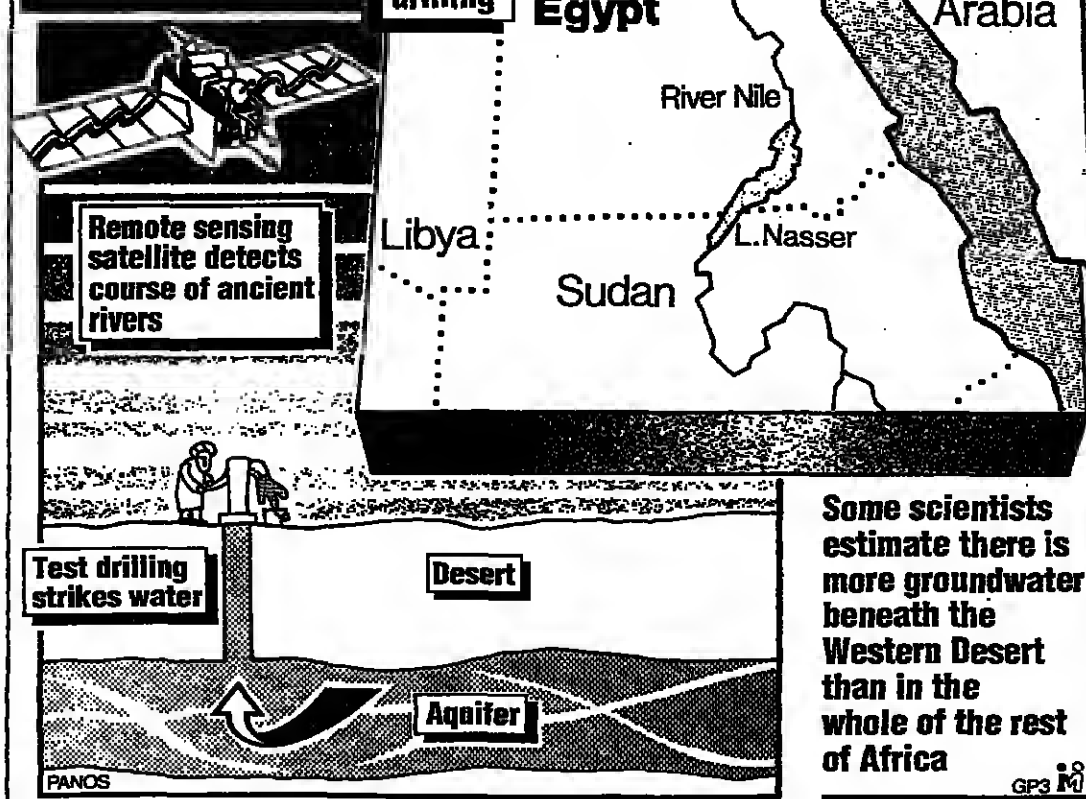
ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Commenting on the start of talks in Jeddah Sunday between Kuwait and Iraq to end a dispute over oil, Al Ra'i daily expressed optimism that the two sides will reach an amicable solution, and said that those who tried to tamper with the Gulf's security by setting one country against another will meet with total failure. The paper particularly mentioned the United States which, it said, had failed to interfere in the affair and whose congress has resorted to a decision of imposing economic sanctions on Iraq. It said that the decision was meant to compensate Washington for its failure, but the sanctions can by no means deter Iraq and Kuwait from reaching a settlement nor can it help Washington impose its hegemony on the Gulf. "The days when the imperialists used to impose their will on the smaller nations, and the hands of the clock can never be pulled back, said the paper. What Washington can hope to achieve by its decision, said the paper, is an increase of the Arab people's hatred and bitterness towards the United States for its hostile actions and its improper attitude, the paper continued. It said that the United States' actions can also help the Arabs to bolster their solidarity and stand together in the face of the common threats.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday criticises those Jordanians who shun jobs offered them in remote regions and rural areas away from the cities. Tareq Masarweh says more than 50 Jordanian doctors who are awaiting to get employment, and who had repeatedly applied for jobs with the government have turned down an offer to work in areas, away from their homes. The writer says that unless these doctors take up these jobs there can be no way of finding other jobs for them at present, and the unemployment problem will remain unsolved. The writer calls on the Housing Corporation to find proper homes for these doctors near their place of work so as to encourage Jordanians to serve in remote areas, and appealed to the Lower House of Parliament to discuss ways of changing social habits and ideas about work in the rural regions instead of demanding that the government do everything to absorb the thousands of unemployed people in its departments. Jordan, is a poor country with meagre resources, and should doctors and other job seekers need to work they ought to show a sense of belonging to their country and accept the offer to help solve the problem of unemployment, says Masarweh. He urges all citizens to accept jobs of any kind to serve their society.

Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed the Jordanian-Egyptian higher joint committee meetings in Amman and said that they constitute a constructive step towards enhancing joint Arab action. This action is needed in the face of Israel's challenges and constant threats, and is also needed to bolster pan-Arab solidarity in the face of world economic blocs which are emerging fast and achieving success, said the paper. Both Egypt and Jordan, said the paper, are not only determined to cement their joint cooperation in socio-economic fields, but they are also determined to move ahead with political matters particularly in areas concerning the convening of an international conference to find a proper and lasting settlement to the Palestine problem.

Egypt: hidden seas?



Egypt finds water under a sea of sand

By Deborah Pugh

CAIRO, Egypt — Satellite images have led to a spectacular discovery of water beneath Egypt's Western Desert. There is speculation that it may contain more ground water than was thought to exist for the whole of Africa.

A test drilling, says Dr. Farouk Al Baz, indicated that there is enough water "for agriculture for 200,000 acres (80,000 hectares) for 200 years from that one well." The discovery is of enormous significance for a predominantly desert country dependent on the Nile, 86 per cent of whose waters come from drought-prone Ethiopia.

Instruments aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle Columbia first revealed the rocky beds of ancient river courses beneath the desert sand.

"There must have been a great deal of water to form valleys as wide as the Nile Valley, 20 kilometres across," Dr. Al-Baz speculated after examining the images.

"If there were rivers as large the Nile, then there was much rain and a great deal of surface water. Some of that water would have evaporated; some would have seeped through the deeply fractured rock beneath and stored in aquifers."

To pursue his theory that the

water in those aquifers is still there, Dr. Al-Baz, Egyptian director of Boston University's Centre for Remote Sensing, in co-operation with the Egyptian government, started test drilling near the confluence of several buried valleys in the Western Desert.

He believes the find indicates the desert's vast potential as a source of water. He cautions, however, that this particular reserve is fossil water, and that because its ability to recharge itself is unknown it should be treated as a non-renewable resource and used sparingly.

Other scientists are also convinced there is much water to be found beneath Egypt's sea of sand.

Dr. Kamal Hefny, director of the Institute of Ground Water Research, has just produced a map, based on satellite images, which reveals eight distinct aquifers.

Egypt uses three billion cubic metres of ground water a year. Dr. Hefny estimates the figure will increase to eight billion cubic metres, and much more when all regions are fully explored.

The belief that the waters of the Nile were a limitless resource was undermined after the decade of drought which devastated Sudan and Ethiopia began to

affect water levels behind Egypt's giant Aswan Dam.

With civil wars also raging in the two Nile-basin partners, Egypt became acutely aware of its vulnerability to events at the distant sources of the river.

In the urgent search for alternative supplies, major ground water discoveries were made in Egypt before the advent of satellite imaging.

But the new technology can show with more precision where to look for water and cut the cost of exploration by up to 90 per cent, says Dr. Al-Baz. Drilling for water is cheaper and faster than building a dam or piping river water long distances.

Though the desert is a hostile environment to conventional scientific and geological analysis, the region's lack of vegetation and cloud cover makes it ideal for effective remote sensing.

The use of ground water from the Western Desert has a long lineage: evidence points to the existence of an ancient irrigation system fed by deep wells. Egyptian and Dutch experts believe that nearly one million acres (400,000 hectares) of land were once made fertile thanks to water from the wells.

About 2,500 years later, scientists hope to repeat the ancient feat and find renewable sources of ground water to nourish sustainable development in the desert. — PANOS Features.

OPEC pact — milestone in Gulf oil scene

By Ragip Erten
 Renter

DUBAI — OPEC's new Iraqi-driven output and price pact is a milestone in the Gulf oil scene and even broke Saudi Arabia's resistance to maintaining its fixed percentage of the group's output, oil analysts in the region said.

"Nothing will be the same again," one oil industry analyst said. "Iraq's successful use of pressure tactics changed all issues."

OPEC's biggest partner Saudi Arabia had until this agreement insisted on keeping 24.46 per cent share of the total OPEC ceiling. But under the new pact its share fell to 23.92 per cent, its individual limit unchanged while the 13-nation group's output ceiling was raised.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil ministers concluded an agreement last Friday in Geneva raising the group's price target to \$21 per barrel from \$18 and the output ceiling to 22.491 million barrels per day (bpd) from 22.086 million until December.

"Iraq effectively used the resentment of Saudi Arabia against its Gulf Arab allies (Kuwait and the United Arab

Emirates) which were chronic overproducers," an oil industry analyst said.

He said as Iraqi tactics managed to persuade the UAE and Kuwait to adhere to their quotas, Baghdad may have broken Riyadh's resistance to higher oil target prices and a lower share of the OPEC output.

Although the group's total ceiling has been raised, the new OPEC pact is expected to suck out around 800,000 bpd from the market due to pledged quota adherence by the UAE and Kuwait. This might push up oil prices currently around \$17 a barrel to the new target level by year-end.

Last week cash-strapped Iraq had accused the UAE and Kuwait of stabbing it in the back by overproducing and forcing down oil prices. The UAE opted to stay out of OPEC's quota system last year and Kuwait was pumping over its 1.5 million quota.

It also accused Kuwait of extracting oil from Iraqi territory and, according to Western diplomats, massed troops along the border. The two sides are due to start talks on the border problem in Jeddah on Sunday.

Iraq's move to secure an

increase in oil prices and to stop quota-busting stemmed not only from its need for hard cash for post-war reconstruction, but also from difficulties it was facing in selling its low-quality crude in a glutted market, a problem shared by its Gulf-war foe Iran.

Iraq's initial demand for a \$25 per barrel target price met resistance from some OPEC members such as Venezuela, which feared this might curb growth in the world oil demand.

Gulf oil analysts believe Iraq's use of the military option in the OPEC game may have affected the following policies in the region:

— All Gulf states, which are planning billion dollar investments to grab a higher portion of an expected surge in the world demand in the next decade, will have to re-evaluate their schemes taking into account OPEC's future target prices which might alter world demand structure.

— Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which have so far preferred soft or relatively lower oil prices due to their retail business in Europe and the United States, will have to adjust their crude and product balance in their supply structure to optimise profits.

Congress proves reluctant to discipline its own

By Robert Green
 Renter

WASHINGTON — Both houses of Congress proved this week their reluctance to discipline their own members after a senator violated finance regulations, and a congressman broke the rules to help a male prostitute and former lover.

The Senate voted 96-0 on Wednesday to denounce Minnesota Republican David Durenberger for evading limits on outside income and claiming false expenses.

A day later the House of Representatives reprimanded by a vote of 408-18 — but refused a call to expel — Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank for using his influence to help a male prostitute who had been his lover.

Members of both chambers said they found the actions distasteful but necessary because the constitution gives them sole power to punish or even expel members for misconduct.

"The Senate's duty is clear," said Democratic Leader George Mitchell. "We owe it to this institution to uphold the standards of conduct and the rules we established for ourselves no matter at what personal discomfort."

Most senators said they regretted punishing Durenberger but felt they had no choice.

The debate was more partisan

in the House where some republicans said Frank should resign or be censured because of the nature of the improprieties.

Representative Robert Dornan, a California republican, said Frank's conduct would have cost him his job in almost any other profession.

Durenberger and Frank both said they had made mistakes and accepted their punishment. "I should have known better," Frank, a declared homosexual, told the House.

Both the House and Senate have ethics committees to investigate alleged misconduct and recommend punishment.

Committee members said it was a "thankless, unpleasant job." "Anyone who wants my seat can have it," Representative James Hansen, a republican committee member, said during the debate on Frank.

Durenberger was the first senator to face ethics charges since 1982 when Senator Harrison Williams, a New Jersey democrat, resigned rather than face expulsion for a bribery conviction.

The Senate has expelled 15 members in its history, 14 during the civil war for supporting the confederate states and another in 1797 for treason. It has censured, condemned or denounced nine others for financial or personal misconduct.

Only four house members have been expelled, three during the

civil war. Another 23 were censured and seven, including Frank, reprimanded.

The increased emphasis on conduct stems from the 1978 ethics in Government Act passed after the Watergate scandal that increased financial reporting standards for members of congress and government officials and limited outside income members can earn for speaking fees.

It comes at a time when senators and representatives find themselves under greater pressure to raise more money for television commercials and other campaign expenses as well as for their family needs.

Reporters who covered Congress used to look the other way when they saw members who were drunk or misbehaving. But that changed in 1974 when representative Wilbur Mills' fling with an exotic dancer became public.

Mills, an arkansas democrat, was forced to resign as chairman of the powerful ways and means committee that writes tax laws, and soon retired.

Two years later, Representative Wayne Hays, an Ohio democrat, resigned after aide Elizabeth Ray, on his payroll as a secretary, said she was paid to have sex with him.

The 1980 "abscam" scandal, in which FBI agents posed as wealthy Arabs trying to bribe members of congress, cost six house members their seats.

Cairo, Amman outline moves

(Continued from page 1)

implementation of a decision taken by the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit in Alexandria in June last year.

The national airlines in the two countries will make arrangements for facilitating the transfer of funds accrued in Amman and Cairo from profits and revenues on air transport operations and the national airlines will purchase all their needs from either country with local currency.

The committee voiced satisfaction with the level of cooperation in these fields and the programme for 1989, 1990 and 1991 as agreed on last year and recommended further facilities for Jordanians studying in Egyptian universities and extending the deadline for accepting Egyptian students in Jordanian universities until the first week of September. They agreed to study an agreement that would prevent dual taxation on teachers working in any of the two countries.

The committee will pursue efforts to complete a microwave network linking Tabah with Aqaba and will pursue cooperation in radio and television programmes.

The two sides will organise meetings by specialists to promote tourism and carry out joint ventures.

They will also provide further travel facilities for tourists from either country at touristic sites.

The two sides will examine the prospects of launching joint flights to carry tourists to Aqaba and southern Sinai and will cooperate in training personnel employed in the tourism industry.

The committee recommended joint training in pharmaceuticals and to exempt from customs duty all pharmaceutical products and medical appliances and to register medicines produced by either country.

The two sides will continue exchange of visits by officials for consultations on organising the labour markets and the employment of workers. They will finalise procedures concerning the social security and compensation for workers employed in either country. They will also exchange publications and information concerning matters related

to workers and their compensation and vocational training.

The committee called for a meeting by a joint consular committee as soon as possible to study matters related to Egyptian and Jordanian nationals living in either country. Recommendations in this matter will be submitted to the higher committee as its next meeting to be held in January 1991.

Jeddah talks

(Continued from page 1)

Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah Al Sabah, who is also prime minister, would lead Kuwait's delegation to the talks.

But Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said after the scheduled cabinet meeting that Saudi Arabia, as the host country, would decide on the date and venue of the proposed talks.

Kuwait was awaiting news, he said.

Awadi said Kuwait hoped the Jeddah talks "will be a step towards reaching a just and final solution to all outstanding issues and problems between the two countries."

The cabinet meeting was chaired by Sheikh Saad who with the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, met PLO leader Yasser Arafat earlier on Sunday — the latest Arab leader to try to mediate in the Iraq-Kuwait dispute.

The confrontation began nearly two weeks ago when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait of wrecking Iraq's economy with excess oil production and encroaching on the border to steal \$2.4 billion in oil.

Some tension eased this week due to a new agreement among OPEC members to respect production quotas to reach a target price of \$21 per barrel, \$3 higher than the previous target.

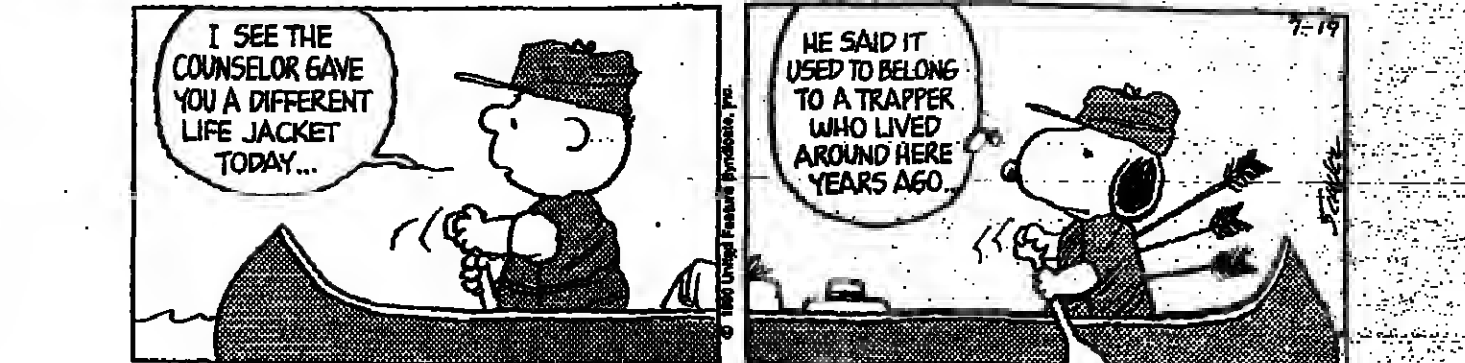
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Questioning vs accountability

By Saeed Qara'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Against the backdrop of elected representatives of the people trying every trick in the book to "monitor and scrutinise" every move of the appointed executive branch since December, some of the main questions that have sprung up are: are the elected representatives themselves subject to any monitoring or scrutiny? Are there any fool-proof ways to ensure that they live up to the expectations of the people? How close are they to the pulse of the people who gave them the seat of power? Are they immune against criticism from day one of being elected to the day when their term runs out?

A seminar held here last week sought to answer some of these questions. The debate, attended by an academician — Jordan University Vice-President Adnan Bakhit — and Amman Deputy Taher Al Masri and Balqa Deputy Fawzi Tu'eimeh, revolved around ways to improve the work and efficiency of parliamentarians. As it emerged, the three agreed that the best party to monitor the people's representatives was the people themselves.

At the same time, it was also underlined that every deputy should follow a self-evaluation process to draw a self-imposed barrier and define their work within the rules and rights given to them by law.

The participants in the seminar agreed that the citizens have the absolute right to question and judge the deputy's performance and stressed that the final judge in this process of evaluation is the deputy's conscience and deeds.

Dr. Bakhit suggested that deputies should be "questionable" rather than "accountable to any party" in the absence of legally recognised political parties. As a first step Dr. Bakhit suggested that all slogans that were raised during the election campaign be collected, documented and kept by the General Secretariat of Parliament in order to enable it to study the important issues which are considered to be of great concern to Jordanians. "Such studies should also aim at getting acquainted with the candidates' awareness of the country's real capabilities to realise the promises made in the election slogans," he said.

Dr. Bakhit said the questioning process should take place on various levels:

On the electorate level, he suggested that the Kingdom be divided into electorate zones equal to the number of deputies and that the process of individual and collective questioning be encouraged by non-official institutions such as syndicates, clubs, societies, schools, etc. The questioning should focus on the most important national issues and the deputy has to present working plans to any suggested project, taking into consideration feasibility and financing so as to share part of the government's responsibilities and "to shift from the slogans phase into the scientific and objective phase and practical deeds."

On the local administrative level, such as municipalities and rural councils, the questioning process, as suggested by Dr. Bakhit, should take place through discussions over these institutions' plans among the deputies and the target constituency. Since the government suffers a deficit in its budget, the great challenge facing the deputies is represented in finding ways to provide financial liquidity, experience and technical and practical support needed for projects suggested in their constituencies, Dr. Bakhit argued. "This will enable deputies to shift from a demand-oriented party into a full-fledged contributor to the construction of the Kingdom's internal structure," according to Dr. Bakhit.

On the mass media level, Dr. Bakhit stressed the importance of the local as well as Arab press as an effective means in the process of questioning about basic issues in the country. "This makes it necessary for mass media to shift immediately from the phase of reporting to the phase of study, research and investigation" so as to dig out facts

and make them available for the deputies and the public alike. The media should do that through turning into a platform for specialised scholars, intellectuals and legal experts to publish their opinions and contemporary issues," Dr. Bakhit said.

In addition to these procedures, Dr. Bakhit stressed that the questioning process should emanate from within the parliamentary political blocs.

The importance of using research findings while preparing scientific referential studies on major issues tackled by Parliament was another key point tackled in Dr. Bakhit's presentation to the debate. The official apparatus, including the government, could be an efficient tool in providing deputies with accurate information which necessitates laying down legislation to provide information, Dr. Bakhit said. Furthermore, he emphasised the role of scientific institutions, research centres and universities in questioning deputies through analytical studies of the deputies' performance, the results of which have to be made available to the deputies and the public.

Deputy Masri emphasised that the questioning process in a democratic country on the way to political pluralism should be political and moral rather than legal or constitutional. However, Masri expressed dissatisfaction that Jordan, unlike other democratic countries, has not reached the period of political pluralism where parties compete with each other through political, economic and social platforms by which the candidates feel committed to their objectives and in which case accountability and questioning is not directed to a single deputy but to the party as a whole. Nonetheless, he did not ignore the deputy's responsibility for providing his area with the required services, and for his personal behaviour and interaction with his electorate.

According to Masri, "most of the Jordanians, conservatives and centralists in particular, are not party oriented." This, he said, is an unhealthy phenomenon that necessitates taking quick moves in the direction of political pluralism.

Masri, a former foreign minister, said the process of deputies' accountability and questioning should take place on two levels:

Judging a deputy through his practices, stands, and contribution towards solving his country's problems during his term in office as well as through his intellectual, political and leadership capabilities.

Judging the success or failure of a deputy from the outcome of the next elections. Masri, however, emphasised that in addition to the citizen's right to question a deputy, "all authorities, executive and legislative, mass media and educated people share the responsibility of providing the deputies and the public with objective and accurate information."

Deputy Tu'eimeh, a professor in psychology, stressed on defining a mechanism for questioning the deputies since, he said, they are constitutionally accountable to the voters. "The Parliament is a part of a balanced constitutional formula which controls the country," he said. What keeps this formula balance "is a dynamic continuous complementary process of questioning directed from the legislative body towards the executive body but originating from the citizens."

While Tu'eimeh stressed the important role of the mass media, he was harshly critical of it for what he described its failure to produce in-depth investigative reporting and research work. He also referred to "the mandate over the media by the power magnates who manipulate the press to their favour." He did not give examples of those powers.

After criticising unnamed fellow deputies for seeking "short-term trivial cases and for biases and narrow affiliations," Tu'eimeh agreed with Dr. Bakhit and Masri that the best mechanism for a sound accountability to deputies is through the restoration of political parties, banned in the Kingdom since 1957.

Palestinians stage strike

(Continued from page 1)

was a centre of incitement.

Sunday's army closure orders were served by police as Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip observed a general strike to mark the tenth anniversary of Israel's formal "annexation" of Arab Jerusalem.

Palestinians said Sunday's strike, called by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, closed down most activities. There were no reports of serious Israeli-Palestinian clashes.

The strike followed Saturday bombing on a Tel Aviv beach, in which a 17-year-old Canadian girl was killed and 18 other people were wounded. Police detained eight Arabs for questioning. The pipe-bomb blast killed Mar-ni Kimmelman, an 17-year-old from Toronto. Hospitals released 18 sunbathers wounded by the bomb but admitted an Arab hit over the head in one of several attacks by revenge-seeking Israelis.

Police said the eight suspects came from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It was the first fatal bombing in

many years on a Tel Aviv beach and took place on the Sabbath.

No group claimed responsibility. Police denied any link to a foiled seaborne raid by Palestinians in May.

The attack was the most serious on Israelis since a pie bomb in a Jerusalem market killed a 72-year-old Israeli and wounded nine in May.

Saturday's home-made bomb was hidden in a beach bag placed between two chairs near a life-guard station. It blew up around 2.30 p.m., spraying shrapnel into the legs of bathers. One of the suspects was seen fleeing at the time.

Police dispersed hundreds of incensed Israelis who shouted "bash their heads" at Arabs. They pounced on Palestinians in cars bearing licence plates from the occupied territories and in a hotel where Arab labourers live.

The revenge attacks, which injured seven Arabs, prompted condemnations from Israeli politicians and police alike.

Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat said: "We can't behave in this wild and barbaric way. One cannot jump on a man because he is an Arab and beat him."

PLO: Shamir dropped proposal

(Continued from page 1)

peace conference to be attended by Israel and Arab states without the PLO.

"There will be no peace, no stability and no security in the region if they (the Israelis) continue their attempts to go around the PLO," Arafat told a Baghdad news conference.

Arafat attacked Israel's plans to build more houses for Jews in Arab Jerusalem, which he said would make Palestinians a minority in the city.

Referring to a U.S. decision last month to halt dialogue with the PLO because it refused to condemn a guerrilla raid on Israel by a Palestinian faction, Arafat said all terrorism should be condemned.

"Why doesn't the U.S. take any

action or stand against the daily (Israeli) state terrorism directed against Palestinian women, children and elderly people?" he said.

Arafat said he did not want a "dialogue of the deaf" with Washington. "If there is to be a dialogue it must be at a higher level," he said.

On Friday a U.S. Jewish leader made public a letter to him from Arafat in which the PLO leader pledged to continue working for peace.

Arafat also called for an end to fighting in Lebanon between two rival Shi'ite militias, the Syrian-backed Amal and pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

Security sources in Lebanon said Palestinian guerrillas were fighting alongside Amal in clashes with Hizbollah.

Trinidad revolt

(Continued from page 1)

Madeira said.

Madeira said Abu Bakr's rebels and the government were continuing their negotiations at the parliament building over terms of an amnesty demanded by the Muslims.

The rebels stormed the television station and the parliament building Friday night, firing automatic weapons and taking the

prime minister and several cabinet members hostage. An explosion also struck police headquarters. The rebels accused the government of corruption and drug-dealing and claimed to have overthrown it.

The government denied it had fallen. Its radio reported sporadic gunbattles since Friday, including a gunbattle late Saturday after reports of a settlement first were announced.

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Ibrahim Thigarmia: In the first photo Ibrahim was 14 years old and unable to use his hands or his legs. The second photo shows Ibrahim now after undergoing medical treatment in England.

One-man crusade for children

By Saeed Khami
Special to the Jordan Times

"OVER the years I have watched helplessly as so many supporters just gave up." The price the Palestinian cause has paid for the unanswered letters and appeals for help and information can never be assessed... there is always a limit of endurance and patience and there comes a time when the human spirit rebels or gives in."

Since his first visit to Morocco in 1952, after he had witnessed the suffering of children from serious diseases, British national Reg Cleaver, 76 years old, has set forth to dedicate his life to the help of children: the poor, needy and helpless. Cleaver's motives may be due to the World War II's adversities, and to the sufferings he has witnessed in many regions in the world which are the outcome of poverty, ignorance and warfare.

In 1971, after several visits to Morocco, Cleaver encountered a 14-year-old child, Ibrahim Thigarmia, who was hardly able to use his hands or his legs. Like many other children in Morocco, Ibrahim had fallen the victim of polio which crippled him for 12 years.

Several months later, Cleaver brought Ibrahim to England to undergo medical treatment. With the help of the Moroccan government as well as the support of "Windor" and "Paladin Boys" clubs, Ibrahim, now 30 years old, is able to lead a healthy, active life of his own.

Cleaver, the founder of the Friends of Morocco Organisation, has persevered in helping children in Morocco for nearly 30 years. The phenomenon of crippled children that crowded the pavements and streets in Morocco was perhaps what

made Cleaver more determined to his noble objective: helping the unfortunate children.

"Take a look at these pictures: the bruises, the broken limbs, the crippled hands and legs... and their looks in particular," said Cleaver, pointing out to some pictures of Moroccan miserable children around ten or eleven years of age, who have the looks of weary men in their thirties.

Not only in Morocco, but also in North Africa, has the aid of Cleaver been extended. His primary objective now, however, is the help of Palestinian orphan children who are the victims of the "terrible acts and atrocities" committed by Israelis.

"In 1948, at the time of the partition of Palestine, I protested that after a bloody World War of five years, which cost the lives of 50 million souls — to restore freedom and the right of self-determination to Czechoslovakia, Poland and other countries under Nazi occupation — and then take those same rights (which must be the very basis of all human rights) away from the Palestinians, was a gross injustice; I have never moved from that point of view," Cleaver said in interview with the Jordan Times in Amman last week.

In letters he sent to the British prime minister, the U.S. president, and to religious leaders and editors of papers and magazines, and through other means, Cleaver has tried to increase awareness, and raise funds for helping the victims of what he describes as the "terrible unreported atrocities and brutalities" the Israelis committed against the Palestinian Arabs.

In a letter he sent to Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, he wrote:

"In the company of surgeons, doctors and lawyers, I have been taken to hospitals where some of the children, who have been the victims of unspeakable brutality by the Israeli military and the Shin Bet (Israel's internal security apparatus), were being cared for. I have seen children aged five, six, seven, and ten years suffering from terrible injuries. It is impossible that human beings can bring themselves to carry out such atrocities against small children."

On his frequent visits to the Arab World, Cleaver hears remarks about Western perceptions of the Arabs that shock him. "The idea that Westerners have a kind of hostility against the Arabs is totally wrong," he said. "The fact that Arabs do not understand the 'Western mind' which was to the advantage of the Israelis, is perhaps the major weakness of the Arabs," he pointed out.

"I believe there is an increasing belief in, and support in the West for the Palestinian cause as well as for Arabs. Many people and associations have offered to help me and to sponsor many pro-Palestinian projects such as the amazing response I received when asking for a holiday for Palestinian deprived children," he told the Jordan Times in the interview.

This was particularly evident in the response to Cleaver's letters from Mrs. Thatcher's minister of state who offered support and willingness to help the Palestinians. "We are impressed by your (Cleaver's) generosity and plans to bring a small group of Palestinian teenagers to England for a holiday in July," the minister's reply letter said. The letter went on to explain the difficulties that may arise in front of

these children to obtain their visas. However, the letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, said that "we might be able to make an exception in this case so as to help you bring this project into fruition."

Cleaver, who is secretary of the Conservative Friends of Palestine, is now in the process of establishing the "Palestinian Orphan Children's Trust." This group will provide specialised education for Palestinians, and training in a specific trade as well as a particular profession.

The trust will meet the cost of air fare and all medical expenses of a child needing operations or other treatment by specialists in London hospitals; and in special cases, the trust will meet the cost of holidays or convalescence for any child or children who benefit from the programme.

This trust, founded by Cleaver himself, has the support of many Britons and a number of sympathetic Arab nationals in Britain, Cleaver said. An appeal for support will be made to all heads of Arab states through the respective ambassadors in London, he added.

"I shall welcome enquiries from Jordanians and other people, and letters or donations may be sent to my address in England," remarked Cleaver. "I shall also be looking for persons who are well known in public life to become patrons of the trust and suggestions will be welcome," he concluded. Cleaver's address is

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GOODWILL GAMES

Soviet teen captures all-round gymnastics title

TACOMA, Washington (AP) — American Kim Zmeskal's bid for Goodwill Games gold collapsed early, and Soviet teenager Natalia Kalinina captured the all-around title Saturday night in women's gymnastics, including a perfect score in the vault.

The Soviets, who edged the United States for the team gold medal Friday, also took the silver medal with Olympian and current world champion Svetlana Boginskaya.

Kalinina, undaunted by the field of international talent, a partisan American crowd, or the challenge from her teammate Boginskaya, took the gold with a score of 39.836.

The 10,000 score on vault, the first flawless effort in two nights of women's competition, erased any chance Boginskaya had of catching her.

Boginskaya, at 17 near the end of a career that has produced an array of medals, including an Olympic gold in Seoul in the vault and the world title last year in Stuttgart, West Germany, took the silver with a score of 39.799.

Henrietta Onodi of Hungary won the bronze with 39.545.

American Betsy Otko, who also started slowly, rallied to finish fourth with 39.298 points.

Zmeskal, getting her first taste of major international competition, finished sixth with 39.074 points.

Boginskaya was substituted into the all-around lineup by the Soviet team officials despite a poor performance in the team competition won by the Soviets Friday.

Boginskaya finished Friday's events behind teammates Kalini-

na and Tatiana Lisenko, but the Soviets replaced the 15-year-old Lisenko with the veteran Boginskaya. While the top 16 scores from the team competition advanced to the all-around finals, each nation is limited to two representatives.

Zmeskal, the 14-year-old national champion from Bela Karolyi's gym, fell while trying to execute a reverse somersault on the uneven bars — her first event of the night — and never recovered.

She never approached the effort she displayed Friday, when she was the top individual scorer and did not score lower than 9.90 on any of the four events — floor exercise, vault, uneven bars and balance beam. Her score Friday, 39.661, would have been worth a bronze in the all-around.

Kalinina, the 16-year-old who is among the wealth of Soviet youngsters trying to succeed Boginskaya, never let up after opening with a 9.987 on the vault. She held the lead the rest of the way, with scores of 9.937 in the uneven bars, a 9.912 on the bars and perfection on floor.

Kalinina, who stands 1.42 metres, put on a dazzling floor routine. Her three tumbling passes were flawless, her energetic wiggling perfectly timed to the up-beat music and her grin infectious.

"I really didn't expect a 10," she said through an interpreter. "I think I performed well, but I've never had one before."

The 10 for Kalinina, who finished fourth at this year's Soviet National Championships, was the only one in two days of women's competition. Soviet

Vitali Scherbo achieved perfection on the vault in men's competition last weekend.

Boginskaya, 17, was succinct in her assessment of the competition.

"I am very happy with my performance, but it's up to the judges to decide everything," she said.

Onodi's bronze was her best result. She finished 20th at the 1989 World Championships.

"There is not much interest in gymnastics in my country," said Onodi, 16. "But a few more (women) are coming up in the sport."

U.S. beats Switzerland in hockey

The U.S. national team beat the Swiss, 7-1, in the first round of Goodwill Games hockey Saturday.

Four of the U.S. goals and six assists were scored by players with Boston connections.

"They're just good hockey players," U.S. coach Jeff Sauer of the University of Wisconsin said of the Boston players.

One U.S. line featured Boston University teammates Joe Sacco, Shawn McEachern and Tony Amonte. Sacco had two goals, including the game winner, and both McEachern and Amonte assisted on each score.

"Playing together for 42 games really helped us a lot," Sacco said of the college season. "We know what the other player likes to do. We're really comfortable with each other out there."

Sauer said such experience is essential since the U.S. team has

only been together a few weeks.

The game was scoreless for nearly 10 minutes before Switzerland's Raymond Walder drove the puck past goalie Guy Hebert, a St. Louis Blues' draft choice, had stopped two Swiss shots in front before Walder netted a deflection. But Hebert shut the door on the Swiss after that.

"The American team was the better team for sure," said Swiss coach Hans Lindberg. "I was satisfied with the way we played, even if we lose."

Japan defeats U.S. in baseball

Kojiro Machida homered with one out in the bottom of the 14th inning, and Japan defeated the United States 7-6 Saturday in the Goodwill Games baseball tournament.

The victory improved Japan's record to 2-0. The United States fell to 1-1.

The U.S. team, which committed six errors, had tied the score in the ninth with a two-out double by Chris Gomez.

Japan loaded the bases in the 10th on three walks, including two that were intentional, but failed on a squeeze bunt attempt with one out. With two out, Japan reloaded the bases on another intentional pass, and U.S. relief pitcher Phillip Stidham got Hiroshi Narahara to pop out.

Stidham entered the game in the eighth and allowed only one run, the Machida homer.

Yoshitaka Mizuo pitched the final seven innings for Japan, allowing two runs on five hits. He walked five and struck out seven.

The U.S. team outfit Japan 14-13, but their sloppy fielding resulted in two unearned runs.

U.S. wrestlers stun Soviets

The U.S. free style wrestling team took their first major victory over the Soviet Union in 30 years in a controversial gold medal match at the Goodwill Games Saturday.

The 17-13 win was in doubt for more than 30 minutes, while officials reviewed judges' decisions in two weight classes. South Korea won the bronze 20-18 over Bulgaria.

The Soviets were upset over what they called prejudicial officiating in U.S. victories at 48 and 52 kilograms.

International Wrestling Federation officials reviewed videotapes of the matches before upholding the judges' decisions.

"Had we lost either of the protest they (Soviets) would have won the match," said USA wrestling official Greg Strobel.

Soviet coach Ivan Yarygin was particularly upset at Canadian Judge Mario Saletnik, who also headed the jury of appeals.

"We thought some of the judges were prejudiced, especially Mario of Canada, who we think does not understand the rules of wrestling," Yarygin said through an interpreter.

Yarygin twice charged the table where wrestling officials were sitting to protest the judging and held up the competition for almost nine minutes before the start of the 100 kilogramme match.

Particularly upsetting to the Soviets was American Zake Jones' narrow victory over Sergei Zambalov at 52 kilograms.

Trailing 3-2 with 11 seconds remaining, Jones rolled Zambalov over for two match-winning points.

But the Soviets thought Jones' shoulder touched the mat on the move. They argued that either no points should have been scored or that both wrestlers should have scored two points, which would have negated the American's victory.

Instead the U.S. team won the first four matches and withstood Soviet victories in the heavier weight classes.

Olympic champions David Gogedjickvili and Arsen Fadzayev both won matches for the Soviets. Gogedjickvili won a 3-1 decision over U.S. silver medalist Bruce Baumgartner at heavyweight, and Fadzayev was awarded the 66 kilogramme title over Nate Carr when Carr was warned three times for stalling.

Boxing comebacks

It was a day of comebacks in the boxing ring at the Goodwill Games Saturday.

American flyweight Rudolph Bradley, responding to shouts of "Rudy, Rudy, Rudy" from the Seattle Centre arena crowd, battled back after taking two eight-counts in the first round to beat Cuban Raul Gonzales in their flyweight quarter-final.

Even more remarkable was the comeback of referee Keith Walker, returning to international competition after an absence of nearly two years.

Senna wins German Grand Prix

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — Brazilian Ayrton Senna swept back to the top of the World Drivers' Championship Sunday when he won the West German Grand Prix motor race.

Senna, driving a McLaren, triumphed for the third successive year at the long 6.797-kms circuit after a mid-race battle with Italian Alessandro Nannini's Benetton.

The win lifted Senna ahead of his old rival and defending world champion Alain Prost of France at the head of the title race.

Senna now has 48 points and Prost, who finished fourth in his Ferrari, has 44 points.

It was the 24th victory of his career for Senna and enabled him to draw level with Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio in the list of all time Formula One victors.

Senna's victory, in a time of one hour 20 minutes and 47.164 seconds, ended Prost's streak of three successive wins in Mexico,

France and Britain and reasserted the McLaren team's position as leaders in the Constructors' Championship.

Nannini, who led from the 18th to the 34th lap of the 45-lap race, finished second just two seconds ahead of Senna's McLaren teammate Austrian Gerhard Berger.

Berger closed the gap on Nannini for much of the second half of the race but was unable to catch him before the chequered flag.

Prost cruised home fourth, quite content to collect three more points towards his title defence, ahead of Italian veteran Riccardo Patrese who was fifth and his Williams team-mate Thierry Boutsen who finished sixth.

The race was run in very hot and humid conditions and only 11 of the 26 starters were classified as finishers.

Boutsen, after a mid-race change of tyres, set a new race lap

record for the circuit when he clocked a time of one minute and 45.602 seconds, eclipsing the record set by Briton Nigel Mansell in a Williams in 1987 by one-tenth of a second.

Mansell, who has said he will quit motor racing at the end of the season, was forced to retire in his Ferrari after 15 laps. He collected some debris on the circuit and it damaged the undertray of his car and part of his front wing.

The race began in the expected style with Senna leading the way from his pole position ahead of Berger and Prost with Mansell, Patrese and Boutsen behind.

A starting line-up accident however caused serious concern when Italian Emanuele Pirro in a Dallara collided with Frenchman Philippe Alliot's Ligier.

Pirro tried to squeeze through between two other cars and span. In the collision his car lost a rear wheel and it flew up and struck him on the head.

Comaneci 'was held captive' by man who helped her defect

SEATTLE (AP) — Former Romanian gymnastics star Nadia Comaneci said she was held captive for three months by the man who helped her defect to the West last December and was falsely portrayed as her lover.

In her first extensive interview concerning her relationship with Constantin Panait, Comaneci also said the Romanian carpenter had taken \$150,000 she earned in appearances throughout the United States following her defection.

Comaneci, in Seattle for the Goodwill Games, when asked if Panait had threatened or physically abused her, she replied, "he was not so good with me."

Comaneci escaped Romania, shortly before the fall of Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed last Dec. 25 during a popular uprising.

Comaneci said Panait was returned to his family and now lives in Florida. He has tried to contact her only once since last March. Panait could not be reached for comment Saturday.

"I can't say that I hate him and I can't say that I like him," she said. "He helped me escape from Romania. The money does not mean anything because I have the freedom."

Comaneci said Panait fled with \$150,000 she had earned on her tour of the United States three days after they arrived in Montreal last February to visit Alexandru Stefu, a friend of Comaneci's former Romanian coach, Bela Karolyi.

Stefu said he sought out Comaneci at the request of Karolyi, who became concerned after hearing Comaneci did not want to meet her former coach.

"Bela told me he thought Nadia had the problem," said Stefu.

Comaneci, who won eight medals in the 1976 Montreal Olympics and became the first gymnast to score a perfect score in the games, drew negative press in the United States while in the company of Panait, a married man and father of four. Comaneci, however, denied there was any romantic involvement on her part and that she joined Panait only after he offered to help her escape from Romania.

She said Panait was paid \$5,000 to help her escape and the two crossed the border into Hungary at midnight on Nov. 25, 1989. After being detained briefly by Hungarian police, they were released.

The couple arrived in New York on Nov. 28 and became an immediate media attraction. Comaneci said from the time she joined Panait, he dictated her every move.

"He didn't let anyone near me," Comaneci said. "He told me all the time what I must say."

Comaneci said she met Panait at a family party — a week before she defected and had not known him for a year, as she initially indicated.

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Biasion wins Argentine Rally

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Lancia's Massimo Biasion of Italy, after winning his third Argentine rally Saturday, said it was next to impossible for him to become the champion driver this season and take three world titles in a row.

Biasion, world champion in 1988 and 1989, is third in this season's standings, 31 points behind Toyota's Carlos Sainz of Spain, who finished second in the 2,118-kilometre Argentine Rally.

"(It) is practically impossible that I will end up as champion this year," said Biasion in a news conference after the race in Cordoba, a city 800 kilometres north west of Buenos Aires, local news agencies reported.

Biasion said he was "very happy" to win the rally, but he was "not happy" to be third in the standings.

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GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH © 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KJ8 ♠10863 ♠A5 ♠Q1074 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKQ64 ♠A10832 ♠Void ♠AK9 What is your opening bid?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ106 ♠KJ62 ♠J7 ♠J83 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K104 ♠A92 ♠QJ92 ♠AK10 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠1098 ♠KQ4 ♠K7 ♠AJ954 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠1098 ♠KQ4 ♠K7 ♠AJ954 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠1098 ♠KQ4 ♠K7 ♠AJ954 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ DM ? What action do you take?

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 30, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You're able to wind up whatever it is of a financial or material nature that has been taking your time and concentration as long as you keep very logical in your reasoning.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can wind up some issue that you have been working on at your home in the morning but later use much care not to get into expensive recreations.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get important communications settled during the morning hours and in the evening make sure that you do nothing to which any family member can take objection.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get accounts, income and outlays, arranged in the morning, then you would be wise to use much care and caution in any communications calls.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do the things you personally have been putting off in the morning hours, then you will be able to spend time finding ways to trim your expenses.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan your day's activities most carefully during the morning and then you can avoid some tensions and difficulties that could happen later in the day.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind of a confidential nature should be made to in your behalf after breakfast since later you have some annoying assignment to attend to.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be worldly minded in activities in the morning and you get much accomplished while later you find that usually generous, good friends can be disappointing.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A new idea strikes you early that should be taken advantage of right away as in the afternoon outside problems claim and absorb your attention.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Getting affairs straightened out with business persons is OK in the morning but avoid temptation to run off from good pals to new persons in the evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever pertains to outside associations can be concluded in the morning in a well rounded fashion, then forget a slight and be generous to all.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind concerning work in future can be well organized during the morning while later don't let egotistical persons get your goat.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can use this day to improve your environmental surroundings while in the evening make sure you do not overstep for some temporary pleasure.

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Contractors seek government help

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The decline of the value of the Jordanian dinar and rising material costs have taken a heavy toll on the Kingdom's contractors and this important sector of the national economy could be hard-hit if the government does not extend immediate support, according to the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA).

The overall problems plaguing the sector have been further exacerbated by the liquidation of Petra Bank, which had furnished hundreds of guarantees to government departments on behalf of contractors and extended financing facilities in the course of contract execution, according to JCA President Awad Al Saket.

The association has sent a memorandum to the prime minister pointing out that little has been done to fulfil a government promise made in early 1989 to compensate contractors to make up for the difference in costs of imported materials as a result of the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar.

The memorandum also appeals to the government to include contractors worth less than JD 20,000 in its pledge of compensation.

about 250, Saket told the Jordan Times. "Many of them are facing liquidity problems," he said.

In his memorandum to the prime minister, Saket, who assumed the association's presidency in April 1990, asserts that at least 32 more contractors will be forced to go out of business in the next few months unless the government moved to extend help. Double the number could leave the sector in 1991, according to the memo.

The memorandum says that the contractors association, working in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, has found that the difference between the contract value and actual costs amounted to at least JD 2.5 million.

This is only a fraction of the actual losses of the contractors, says the memo. "But government settlement of this amount will act as an incentive (to contractors) and reaffirm the importance of the sector and the support that the government extends to it," it said.

The memorandum recalls that in late 1988 the then government had pledged that all contractors undertaken during Oct. 15 and Nov. 1, 1988, — when the actual devaluation of the dinar is seen as having officially gone into effect in terms of prices — will be given compensation. But it points out that "prices continued their rise after that date and doubled in many cases."

The government had excluded contracts worth less than JD 20,000 from the compensation pledge, but the memo pointed out that over half the number of Jordanian contractors operated on small-scale and their contracts were worth less than JD 20,000. By the same token, they were among the worst-hit by the decline in the dinar and rise in prices, the petition said adding that the association estimates that the total amount of compensation for small-scale contractors would not be more than JD 200,000. It called on the government to settle this amount also.

Another point made in the memo is a call for extension of contract durations without any adverse impact on the contractors. Such a measure, the association said, will help many contractors facing liquidity problems.

Finally, the association is calling for an amendment to



Awad Al Saket

the standard government contract terms, particularly article 70, which is related to foreign exchange.

A fresh problem to hit many contractors, according to Saket, is the adverse impact of the liquidation of Petra Bank, which had furnished dozens of guarantees and performance bonds to the government on behalf of contractors. Saket estimates that around 20 to 25 contractors — "10 per cent of the active members of the association" — are facing trouble now since the concerned government departments are demanding fresh guarantees.

"Many contractors had based their contract performance on finance available from Petra Bank, and now that the bank is under liquidation they also face liquidity problems," Saket said.

According to an informed economist, "most of the contractors affected by the Petra Bank liquidation appear to be debtors to the bank. So, the problem is not as simple as it appears on the surface."

The economist, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said: "The Central Bank has guaranteed the deposits of Petra Bank but not guarantees furnished by Petra Bank. Those who might have put up the minimum required percentage of the value of bank guarantee could have done so under overdraft facilities on a different account. Again, this would mean it was the bank's money which was used and is owed to the bank by the account holder."

No Central Bank official was immediately available for comment. It was reported that Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, had met with CBJ officials to discuss the general impact of Petra Bank liquidation on the commercial sector, including contractors as well as traders who may have issued local letters of credit through Petra Bank.

Market forces crippling Nigerian manufacturers

By Tunde Obadina
Reuter

LAGOS — Nigerian manufacturers are pleading with the government to review a four-year-old, International Monetary Fund (IMF)-backed economic reform programme which they say is bleeding them dry.

"We cannot accept wholesale these IMF prescriptions. It's not getting us anywhere... the shock therapy has been crippling," said Oladapo Fafowura, managing director of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria.

The military government in July 1986 embarked on policies of deregulation, devaluation and trade liberalisation to try to restore an economy battered by collapsed oil earnings, an overvalued local currency, import dependency and debt.

Finance Minister Olu Falae met Nigeria's commercial bank creditors in London this week to try to win a reprieve on some debt to free cash for local production.

The IMF reforms have stoked inflation, driven interest rates up as high as 30 per cent and slashed the exchange value of the naira to almost an eighth of its 1985 level.

Critics say the measures have

devastated industries, decimated the purchasing power of fixed income workers and rendered Nigeria a victim of an IMF design to sap the economy of an estimated \$32 billion owed to foreign creditors.

Such criticisms, voiced by political opponents of the five-year-old military government as well as by industrialists and trade unionists, do not surprise Nigeria's rulers.

President Ibrahim Babangida said in June that his administration had by its "headlong" approach to economic restructuring "unwittingly... stepped upon the toes of virtually all constituencies in the country since 1986."

But he maintains that the short term pains of economic adjustment would produce long term benefits for sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy.

Babangida's optimism appears to be supported by central bank figures which show that Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 4.1 per cent last year compared with 1.2 per cent in 1985, the year preceding the start of the IMF structural adjustment programme.

But central bank figures also

show manufacturing output rose only 2.2 per cent in 1989 compared with 19.2 per cent in 1985.

Manufacturers' leader Fafowura told Reuters that the sector would either continue to decline or at best stagnate.

"I don't see any improvements in the industrial sector in the next three or four years."

Rising production costs have reduced average capacity utilisation to less than 30 per cent and forced many businesses to fold, particularly small firms, he said.

Firms relying on locally available raw materials have done much better than those depending on imports, and the government says this vindicates its policy of encouraging local sourcing.

It has shown little sympathy for manufacturers it says consume a much higher proportion of foreign exchange than they contribute to GDP. But the manufacturers say commercial traders who thrive on unfettered liberalisation squander far more hard currency than they do.

Many analysts and businessmen say it is suicide for an underdeveloped economy trying to build a solid production base to rely on indiscriminate free market forces.

General Electric reports developing unique gems

NEW YORK (R) — General Electric (G.E.) Co. has said its scientists have grown unique synthetic diamonds with unexpected properties, including the ability to function as the world's best conductors of heat.

A G.E. subsidiary, G.E. Superabrasives based in Worthington, Ohio, will manufacture and market the gem-quality crystals initially to manufacturers involved in electronics, lasers and communications.

The potential market for the new diamonds, which weigh up to one carat apiece, is \$50 million to \$100 million a year, General Electric said.

The crystals are the first man-made diamonds to have comprised almost totally a form of carbon known as Carbon-12, it said.

At room temperature the crystals can conduct heat up to 50 per cent more efficiently than natural diamonds, until now the best transmitters of heat, G.E. said.

In addition, the new diamond crystals are expected to open new design frontiers for manufacturers of high-power lasers, used in a range of applications from welding operations to drilling holes in tough alloys, the company said.

The new gems are 1,000 per cent more resistant than mined diamonds to damage from high-power lasers, it said.

The performance of the diamond crystals came as a surprise even to their inventors.

"It's as if you went into a high-jump competition hoping to slightly beat the world's record by going a few inches over eight feet and came away with a jump of 12 feet," Walter Robb, senior vice president for research and development, said.

The crystals are produced by a two-step process invented by G.E. scientists which takes about a week, Robb said. It combines the oldest method of diamond-making, the high-pressure process, with the newest, a chemical vapour-based process.

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Deutsche mark	410.3	412.8	Swedish crown	111.9	112.6
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Thousands flee Monrovia as rival rebels advance on Doe

ABIDJAN (R) — Thousands of hungry and frightened civilians are streaming out of the Liberian capital Monrovia where a three-sided civil war is lurching to bloody climax.

Two rival groups of rebels are pushing towards the heavily defended executive mansion to finish off President Samuel Doe.

Diplomats fear that when they have done so they may start fighting among themselves.

Charles Taylor, the leader of the 15,000-strong mainstream National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), has already declared himself president of a new interim government. He says Doe will not be allowed to flee the country and will be blasted into submission if he refuses to surrender.

But on Saturday night a Reuters correspondent behind rebel lines said Taylor only controlled the eastern outskirts of the capital.

Another Reuters correspondent in Monrovia said rebels fighting government troops in the city centre were from a rival group led by Prince Johnson.

Johnson's band of fighters, believed to number only a few hundred, has fought its way into

Monrovia from the north over the past 10 days.

After seizing the port and industrial area, his force surged across bridges Friday into the city centre.

This is situated on an eight kilometre long peninsula, bounded by the Mesurado River on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other.

By Saturday night Johnson's forces controlled the tip of the peninsula and were advancing down it towards the seat of government where Doe is holed up with several hundred soldiers preparing for a bloody fight to the finish.

Taylor's forces blocked Doe's escape on the landward side of the peninsula near the now unusable Spriggs Payne Airstrip.

Thousands of civilians poured out of Monrovia Saturday to escape the fighting. They were encouraged to do so by Taylor's radio station, which appealed to the city's 500,000 population to move into captured areas.

Five European ambassadors said in a statement Saturday that Liberia was sliding into "anarchy and national suicide."

There are also fears of a blood-

bath if the Gio and Mano tribesmen, who constitute the backbone of Taylor's and Johnson's rebel forces, seek revenge on Doe's Krahn tribe, which dominates the army.

The Italian ambassador suggested Saturday that the United States should seriously consider intervention.

The United States has a naval task force with 2,000 Marines on board cruising off the coast of Liberia. U.S. officials insist it is only there to evacuate American citizens if necessary.

The jungle-covered West African state was founded by freed U.S. slaves in 1847 and has traditionally maintained close ties with Washington.

Taylor, a 42-year-old U.S.-trained economist, has said he wants to retain those links and promote private investment in Liberia.

He declared the formation of a new government in a radio broadcast Friday and promised to hold free elections within six months.

On Saturday, he held out the prospect of reconciliation with Johnson, his former close colleague.

The Christian radio station

Elwa, which after several weeks of silence has resumed broadcasting under rebel control, quoted Taylor as saying the differences between himself and Johnson had been "blown out of proportion".

Taylor was prepared to ease tension with his rival, it added.

Johnson, a former army captain, was one of the 150 guerrillas who crossed into Liberia from Ivory Coast with Taylor last December to launch the rebellion.

The two men later fell out and Johnson formed an independent group which has frequently attacked Taylor's forces.

Despite the differences in the rebel camp, time is running out for Doe, a 38-year-old former sergeant who seized power in a bloody coup 10 years ago.

He has repeatedly turned down U.S. offers to help him leave the country, vowing instead to fight to the bitter end.

Diplomats say Doe is a virtual hostage of his Krahn soldiers, who fear for their own lives if he leaves the country without them.

Discipline among his troops has collapsed. During the month-long siege of Monrovia they have been looting shops and houses and killing civilians at random.

Kreisky dies

VIENNA (R) — Former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who gave Austria a voice in world affairs during his 13-year rule, died Sunday aged 79.

Kreisky, who served as Socialist Party chancellor from 1970 to 1983 and presided over the Socialist International, died after being treated for heart problems in a Vienna hospital, his doctor said.

"There was a dramatic worsening from Friday to Saturday," Dr. Wolfgang Eisele told Austrian radio. "After that the situation really became acutely critical."

Kreisky's health had been deteriorating for several years. He went into hospital suffering from circulatory problems on July 17.

The longest-serving chancellor of the post-war Austrian Republic, the bearded Kreisky resigned in 1983 when his party failed to win an overall majority.

"We have lost one of the greatest Austrian politicians of this century," current Chancellor and Socialist Party head Franz Vranitzky said.

"With his international reputation he gave Austria a position in the world which far outstripped the actual size of our country."

A non-practising Jew, Kreisky pushed Austria onto the international stage by campaigning for detente in Europe and for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Known for his inclusive Viennese wit, Kreisky, a doctor of law and former journalist, enjoyed huge popularity among Austrian voters.

He was a string of absolute majorities in successive elections after first leading a minority government in 1970.

"His social engagement, his unbending will for reform and renewal contributed for so many Austrians not just to their material improvement, but gave them great confidence in the state in which they lived," Vranitzky said.

Kreisky will be remembered as the man who courted Austria out of its post-war shell and gave it credibility in international affairs.

He was credited with having written President Theodor Kerner's 1951 speech proposing that Austria, under four-power occupation after World War II, be given independence on condition that it remain permanently neutral.

Under his leadership, Austria pursued policies that fended off the worst effects of economic recession in the 1970s and the early 1980s, reducing inflation to among the lowest levels in the world.

Kreisky, flew to Moscow in 1955 as part of a Foreign Ministry team to negotiate Austria's state treaty ending the post-war occupation and securing its independence and neutrality.

After a first government post as foreign minister in the early 1960s, Kreisky increasingly turned to international affairs, pursuing "active neutrality" for Austria and promoting Vienna as a venue for the United Nations and world statesmen.

The first Western leader to receive Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, in 1968, and to grant the PLO prisoners.

He spent much of his early adult life in Sweden, where he married his wife Vera in 1942. He escaped to Sweden in 1938 after three years in jail when the Social Democratic Party was officially banned.

Together with Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme and West Germany's Willy Brandt, Kreisky remained a leading figure in the Socialist International, campaigning for peace and social democracy in Europe.

Italian court seizes files on CIA terrorism link

ROME (R) — Italian magistrates seized the files of a television journalist whose reports claimed that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) backed terrorism in Italy and Sweden, a television spokesman has said.

Rome Magistrate Francesco Monastero sent paramilitary police into the RAI state network's offices to seize the files, and they carried away sheets of notes, the spokesman said.

Monastero had earlier summoned journalist Emilio Remondino to question him about four reports he made between June 28 and July 2 on the main news programme of RAI's Channel One.

Dick Brenneke, who said he was a former CIA agent, said in one of the reports that the agency had triggered off terrorist outrages which rocked Italy in the 1970s through the illegal P-2 Masonic Lodge.

The reports also quoted another purported ex-CIA agent

as saying the CIA and P-2 were linked to the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

The other ex-agent alleged that three days before Palme's murder, former P-2 head Licio Gelli sent a telegram to an aide of then-Vice President George Bush saying, "the Swedish tree will be felled."

The CIA has denied the charges.

Italian President Francesco Cossiga, in remarks which caused a political storm, said last week that heads would roll at RAI if it turned out that the allegations were unfounded.

A parliamentary inquiry has branded the P-2 a "state within the state" which included top Italian businessmen, politicians and military men.

Its exposure toppled the government in 1981 and investigators have associated it with some of the biggest scandals in Italy.

Mongolians relish voting in first free elections

ULAN BATOR (R) — From Communist labour heroes and nomadic herdsmen to democracy activists, Mongolians swarmed to the polls Sunday, relishing a first chance to freely choose a government.

Election officers said after six hours of polling a third of the roughly one million people eligible had voted — a speedy turnout in a nation the size of Western Europe where many herdsmen must ride vast distances on horseback to 1,620 polling stations.

Ballot boxes have been taken to hospitals and to elderly people unable to leave their yurts, tents often pitched high in Mongolia's remote mountain pastures.

"The ruling party will win. The opposition may win about 20 per cent," said Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat who was surrounded by foreign journalists

at the ballot box.

The Communists, unchallenged for the last 69 years, should retain power in the Upper House, the Great People's Khural. But they stand a slim chance of defeat in the lower Small Khural when preliminary results of the nation's first multi-party elections are announced Tuesday, foreign diplomats said.

They consider the 53-seat lower house more important than the 430-seat upper house because it will be in almost permanent session and can pass laws approved by the president. The upper house is due to meet only four times in five years.

Leaders of three democratic opposition parties said they expected to win no more than 30 per cent of seats in the upper house but may make a bigger impression in the lower one.



Gorky Street gets new name

MOSCOW (AP) — Gorky Street, Moscow's main thoroughfare that in pre-revolutionary days was home to fashionable shops and stores, will be given back its old name of Tverskaya Street. The decision to give the street back the name it had since the 15th century follows similar moves throughout the Soviet Union. Cities, streets, ships, fairs and factories that were renamed for Bolshevik and other Soviet figures earlier this century are being given back their old names, to the delight of local residents.

The newspaper Izvestia reported that the decision to rename Gorky Street was made by the Moscow City Council, which is headed by radical reformers. The city council's headquarters is on the street. Tverskaya Street was renamed Gorky Street in 1932, after Russian Socialist writer Maxim Gorky. The street, which runs westward from the Kremlin, has been an important route for centuries — leading to the ancient town of Tver, which in 1931 was renamed Kalinin, for Mikhail Kalinin, one of Josef Stalin's henchmen. On July 19, Kalinin was given back its old name of Tver.

Springsteen's son will not be named Bruce

ASBURY PARK, New Jersey (AP) — The boss' first baby may be born to run, but he won't have to rock and roll through life with people calling him junior. "All I know is that it won't be named Bruce," said Bruce Springsteen's attorney, Barry Slott, who announced the birth Thursday.

Springsteen's girlfriend and backup singer, Patti Scialfa, gave birth to a 7-pound, 9-ounce boy at a California hospital, Slott said, but that's about all he's saying.

U.S. singer's studio, office damaged by fire

DEERING, New Hampshire (AP) — A fire destroyed folk singer Tom Rush's studio and office and damaged his backwoods farmhouse. Rush was in Wyoming on vacation, and no one was in the house when the fire broke out late Thursday. The state fire marshal's office was called to investigate the fire, which took 75 to 80 firefighters about three hours to contain. The buildings are surrounded by 600 acres of farmland. The 16-track recording studio was in a barn behind the house and the office for his production company, Maple Hill Productions Inc., and record label, Night Light Recordings, was in a converted fishing shack.

Country singer gets a boost from Bush

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Country music singer Holly Dunn says her style of music has gotten a big boost from the White House. President George Bush is a fan who has said he listens to country music on the radio and has country tapes in the Oval Office. Earlier this month, he invited Grand Ole Opry stars to perform at the economic summit in Houston. "He's done us a real favour," Dunn said Tuesday in an interview. "He's really into it. Jimmy Carter liked country, too." Dunn's hit records include Daddy's Hands, Are You Ever Gonna Love Me and Only When I Love. In 1987 she won the Country Music Association's Horizon Award.

Ceausescu's chandeliers up for sale

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania is selling off chandeliers originally destined for dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's Palace, but at \$40,000 for the grandest version, few of the country's impoverished people will be buying. To show the country's free market advance knows no bounds, a stall has been set up in the Bucharest Conference Hall where Ceausescu held his last Communist Party congress eight months ago. "They have never been used. They were custom-made for the Palace, but they never got there," a sales attendant said. The price tag of 14,000 lei (\$700) for the smallest wall light to more than 750,000 lei (\$40,000) for one of the huge, 1.5-tonne chandeliers are well out of the reach of most Romanians, whose average pay is 3,000 lei (\$150) a month. "Our usual buyers are people in the hotel business," the attendant said.

Armenian parliament suspends Gorbachev decree

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia's parliament has defied Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by voting to suspend a presidential decree demanding the disarming of all militant groups within 15 days, a nationalist group there said Sunday.

Shavarsh Kocharyan, who represents the Armenian National Movement, said the Armenian parliament voted late Saturday by a wide margin to suspend the decree in the small Soviet republic bordering Turkey.

The decree, issued last week, was aimed primarily at the many

armed groups in Armenia.

In neighbouring Georgia, authorities began evacuating several hundred of the 25,000 train travellers stranded by protesters who have blocked rail lines to press for registration of political parties.

The Soviet Rail Ministry appealed to the Interior Ministry and the KGB security service to help end the blockade in the Akhkhazia region, now in its fourth day.

Kocharyan, speaking by tele-

phone from the Armenian capital, Yerevan, said parliament would take a second vote confirming the suspension Monday.

He said election of a president for the republic, pitting nationalist standard-bearer Levon Ter-Petrosian against Armenian Communist Party chief Vladimir Movsisyan, would be held soon after.

Suspension of the decree was the latest act of defiance to Gorbachev's attempts to restore order in the country's restive republics and conclude a new

"union treaty" redefining the relationship between them and central authority.

The three Baltic republics, which have all declared their intention to secede, announced at the weekend that they would not take part in any discussions on concluding the treaty.

Five other republics, led by the Russian Federation under radical President Boris Yeltsin, have declared their sovereignty within the Soviet Union and announced the supremacy of local legislation over Soviet law.

U.S. fails to satisfy Asia on boat people but talks continue

JAKARTA (R) — South East Asian countries, worried they might never be able to get rid of the thousands of Vietnamese boatpeople sailing to their shores, Sunday told the United States it had to do more to help solve the problem.

"The burden of boatpeople on first asylum countries is getting to the point where it's almost unbearable, politically, economically," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told a news conference.

The issue has taken up much of the three days of talks in Jakarta

between foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its major trade partners, the United States, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and the European Community (EC).

ASEAN considers most of the 120,000 boatpeople crammed into squalid camps around the region as little more than illegal immigrants in search of a better life and wants them forcibly returned to Vietnam.

The United States says the influx of boatpeople is the result of oppression in Vietnamese. It

opposed using coercion to send the boatpeople home, but has proposed a hazy new category of boatpeople who, while not volunteering to return, do not object to doing so.

"We appreciate this move but we in all candour do not think these measures go far enough," Alatas said.

But delegates said ASEAN, grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, has pulled back from its threat to end the first asylum policy and has agreed to hold more talks.

Quake survivors flown to Manila

MANILA (AP) — A man and woman rescued after 11 days in the rubble of a mountain hotel were flown to Manila Sunday as miners resumed searching for survivors of an earthquake that killed more than 1,600 people.

Luisa Mallorca, 20, and Arnel Calabia, 26, were flown early Sunday from Baguio, 210 kilometres to the north, where they were rescued Friday from the wreckage of the Hyatt Hotel.

"I couldn't do anything inside, so I just prayed," Calabia, a security guard, said after arriving at Villamor Air Base. He added that he had drunk rainwater and

his own urine to survive in the rubble.

Dr. Ramon Raymundo said Miss Mallorca was suffering from abdominal trauma "but otherwise she is fine." Calabia might have to have three fingers of his right hand amputated because of gangrene, Raymundo said.

Calabia's father, Dominador, said he had lost hope of ever seeing his son alive again.

"We did not expect that he could be recovered alive 11 days after the earthquake," he told reporters in Manila. "I felt unimaginable happiness as a father to

hear that my son was alive."

Doctors said Calabia and Miss Mallorca suffered from dehydration and other injuries but were in surprisingly good condition after their ordeal.

In Baguio, miners resumed searching Sunday for more bodies in the ruins of about 30 buildings that collapsed during the July 16 quake.

More than 20 people are still believed buried beneath the debris. The U.S. embassy said 12 Americans, all of Filipino origin, were believed among the missing there.

Gunmen, posing as mourners, open fire during New York funeral

LINDEN, New Jersey (AP) — Three gunmen posing as mourners at the funeral of a New York City gang member opened fire on about 100 people at a cemetery, wounding seven people, authorities said.

At least seven other people were trampled in the panic that followed the gunfire Saturday in this community outside New York City, and were treated at hospitals for cuts and bruises.

New York police said the shooting may be related to gangland strife between the Vietnamese gang and Chinese gangs in Lower Manhattan.

Police Capt. Raymond Beckman said the funeral was for a Vietnamese man who was member of a gang called Born to Kill. About 100 people were attending the funeral when the gunmen fired, then fled, Beckman said.

"As they walked by the casket with a bouquet of flowers, they dropped them and opened fire on the mourners," he added.

A 20-year-old man who was

among those shot was flown by helicopter to the trauma unit of University Hospital in Newark. The others' wounds were not considered life-threatening, hospital officials said.

New York police said the funeral to bury Vinh Vun, 21, began in Chinatown in Lower Manhattan earlier Saturday. Vun was shot four times in the chest early Wednesday in a drive-by shooting in Chinatown, said Police Sgt. Tina Mohrman.

She said Vun was a leader of the Chinatown-based Vietnamese gang.

Beckman said three weapons were used, including an Uzi sub-machine gun and a shotgun. A Beretta handgun was found on the ground. That gun, which had been fired, may have been used by someone in the crowd, firing back at the shooters, Beckman said at a news conference.

Police were searching for three suspects Saturday night, said Police Lt. Richard Gerbounka. Beckman agreed with New

York police that the shooting may be related to gangland strife between the Vietnamese gang and Chinese gangs in Lower Manhattan.

The gunmen were apparently wearing sunglasses and trench coats, making it difficult for witnesses to say whether they were Chinese, Vietnamese or Caucasian, Beckman said.

The people attending the funeral were brought to the police station for questioning. Beckman said accounts differed on how the gunmen got away.

Police earlier said investigation efforts were hindered because most of the mourners, who were Vietnamese, spoke little or no English but Beckman later said they spoke English and were cooperating.

The man flown to University Hospital was taken to the operating room, said nursing supervisor Dorothy Crews.

Beckman said five people were shot, but hospital officials said seven people were admitted for gunshot wounds.

Hun Sen: Son Sann tried to abandon allies

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodian guerrilla leader Son Sann has tried to abandon his allies for a separate peace with the Vietnamese-installed government, the government's Premier Hun Sen said Sunday.

The report could not be confirmed, and claims by the Communist Phnom Penh government are usually regarded with suspicion. Calls to the Bangkok office of Son Sann's group, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), went unanswered Sunday.

The KPNLF is allied in a resistance coalition with the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of the Khmer Rouge, which ruled brutally from 1975 until Vietnam invaded in late 1978 and installed the current government. The coalition members often have quarrelled in the past.

The Cambodian News Agency (SPA) Sunday quoted Hun Sen as saying that Son Sann has "resorted to another trick while pretending to be a mediator of national reconciliation."

"He has secretly sent a foreigner to contact me and inform me that he wants to disassociate himself from the coalition ..."

Hun Sen instead urged Son Sann to abide by last month's agreement in Tokyo that would include other members of the coalition.

"If Son Sann really had good will, he should cooperate with Prince Sihanouk in carrying out the Tokyo joint communiqué because this would lead to a ceasefire, mutual confidence and a comprehensive solution," Hun Sen said.

Hun Sen rebuffed Son Sann's invitation to hold talks in Paris on formation of a "Supreme National Council" because he said this was already decided in Tokyo.

In Tokyo on June 5, Sihanouk and Hun Sen agreed on formation of the council to comprise six representatives from the Phnom Penh government and six representatives from the coalition.

Hun Sen has named six representatives, and Sihanouk and Son Sann each have named two. But the council remains incomplete because the Khmer Rouge rejected the agreement.

The council was supposed to convene by July 31 to arrange the first ceasefire in the 11 years of fighting.

Peru's new president sworn in

LIMA (R) — Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, took office Saturday as Peru's 107th president, but his tumultuous inauguration was marred when outgoing President Alan Garcia's farewell speech was interrupted by boos and bellowed insults.

Fujimori, who took office in his 52nd birthday, came from nowhere to defeat novelist Mario Vargas Llosa in elections earlier this year and pledged in his first official speech to rebuild an economy ravaged by inflation, drugs and guerrilla war.

But while five visiting Latin American presidents at the hand-over ceremony looked on stoically, rightist congressmen stopped the 40-year-old Garcia, from beginning his farewell speech three times by banging their desks and jeering him.

Garcia, a Social Democrat, was met with a hail of boos and shouts of "thief" and "go to jail" as the

session, described officially as a "solemn ceremony," turned into a shouting match and members of Garcia's centre-left Aprista Party shouted and hurled insults back at the rightists.

Visibly shaken, Garcia read his speech only after most of the rightist congressmen walked out.

Garcia has been accused of ruining the country's economy and letting corruption run rampant and several congressmen have moved to bring charges against him for graft.

Fujimori, who succeeds Garcia for a five-year presidential term at the head of a centrist coalition led by conservatives, said after he was sworn in that he intended to clean up corruption and restore ties with the international financial community broken off by the outgoing government.

"We inherit a disaster. ... a chaotic and exhausted economy gripped by hyperinflation and recession, a society ripped apart by

violence, corruption, terrorism and drug trafficking," he said.

"The people of Peru elected us to... restore honesty in the public administration," Fujimori said. He announced the creation of an anti-corruption committee to investigate cases of fraud and graft.

Fujimori said he would foster economic development in Peru's abandoned rural areas to combat cocaine production and a decade-old insurgency by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas.

Peru had become the world's largest producer of coca leaves during the Garcia administration, said Fujimori.

While the illegal drug trade had prospered, Peru's economy shrank 3 per cent during the previous government, agricultural production had fallen by almost one fifth and inflation had soared out of control by 2.2 million per cent in five years, he said.